SUPERMAN

Post-CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS

Volume 56:

Armageddon: Inferno

HIS NAME IS WAVERIDER. HIS MIND RIDES THE VERY TIME STREAM. HE HIMSELF IS NOW A PART OF THE TIME STREAM.
ONCE, HE WAS MATTHEW RYDER AND HE CAME FROM A BLEAK, HOPELESS FUTURE. HE USED THE EXPERIMENTS THAT MADE HIM INTO WAVERIDER TO COME BACK IN TIME, TO CHANGE THE EVENTS THAT LED TO HIS TIME. HIS CONTINUED EXISTENCE IS AN ANOMALY THAT SPEAKS OF BOTH HIS SUCCESS AND HIS FAILURE.
SEEDS OF DOOM
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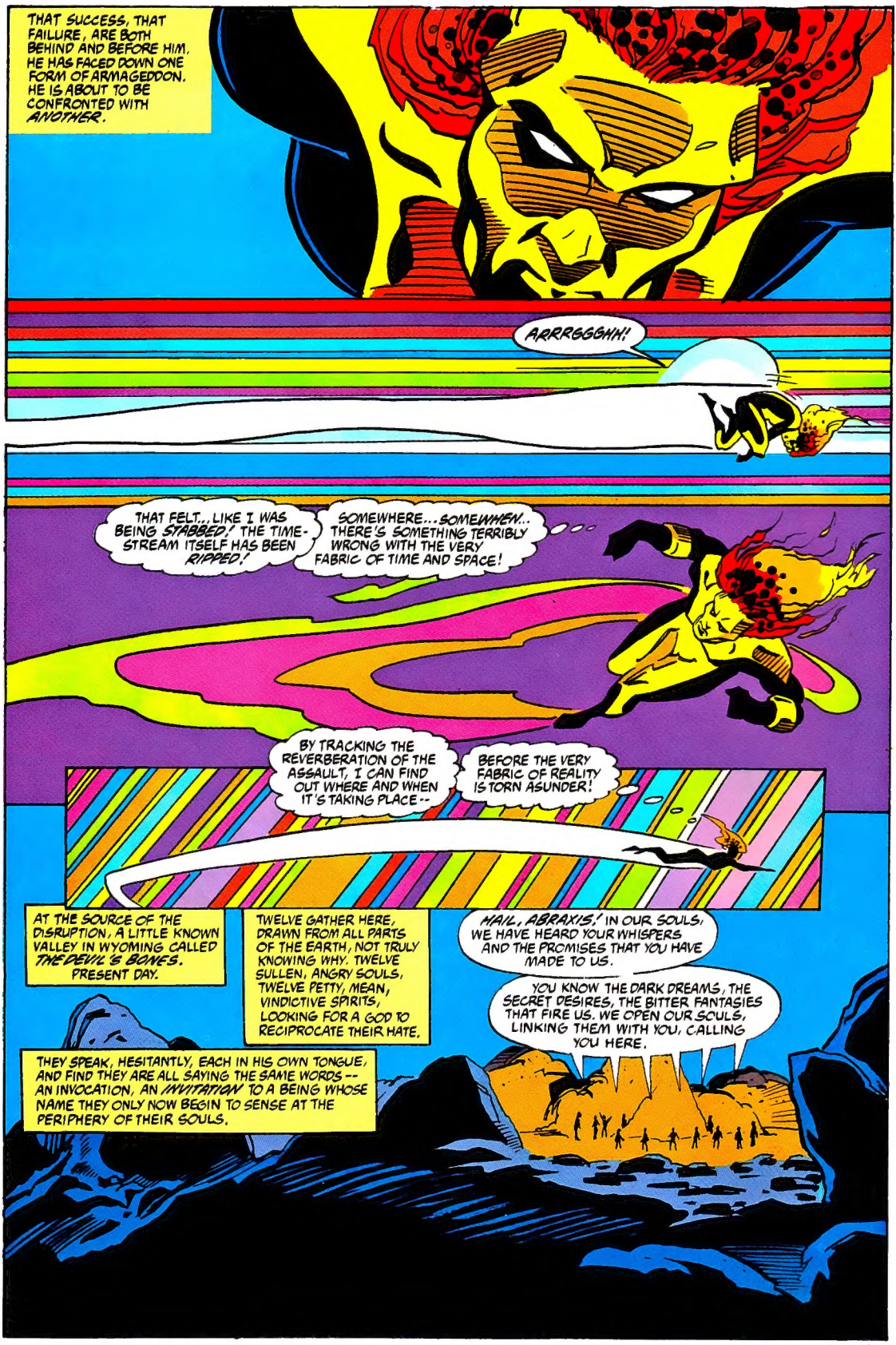
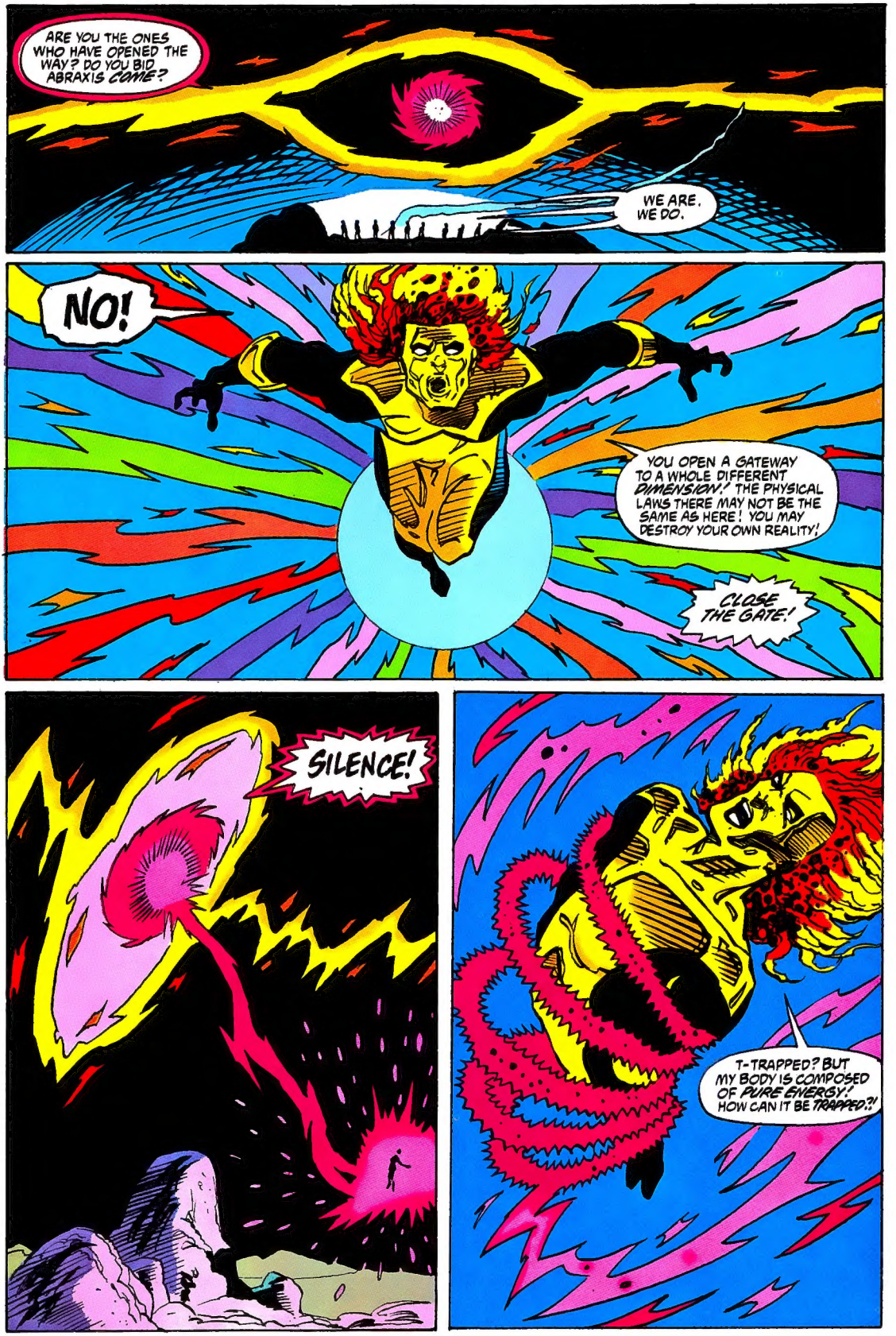
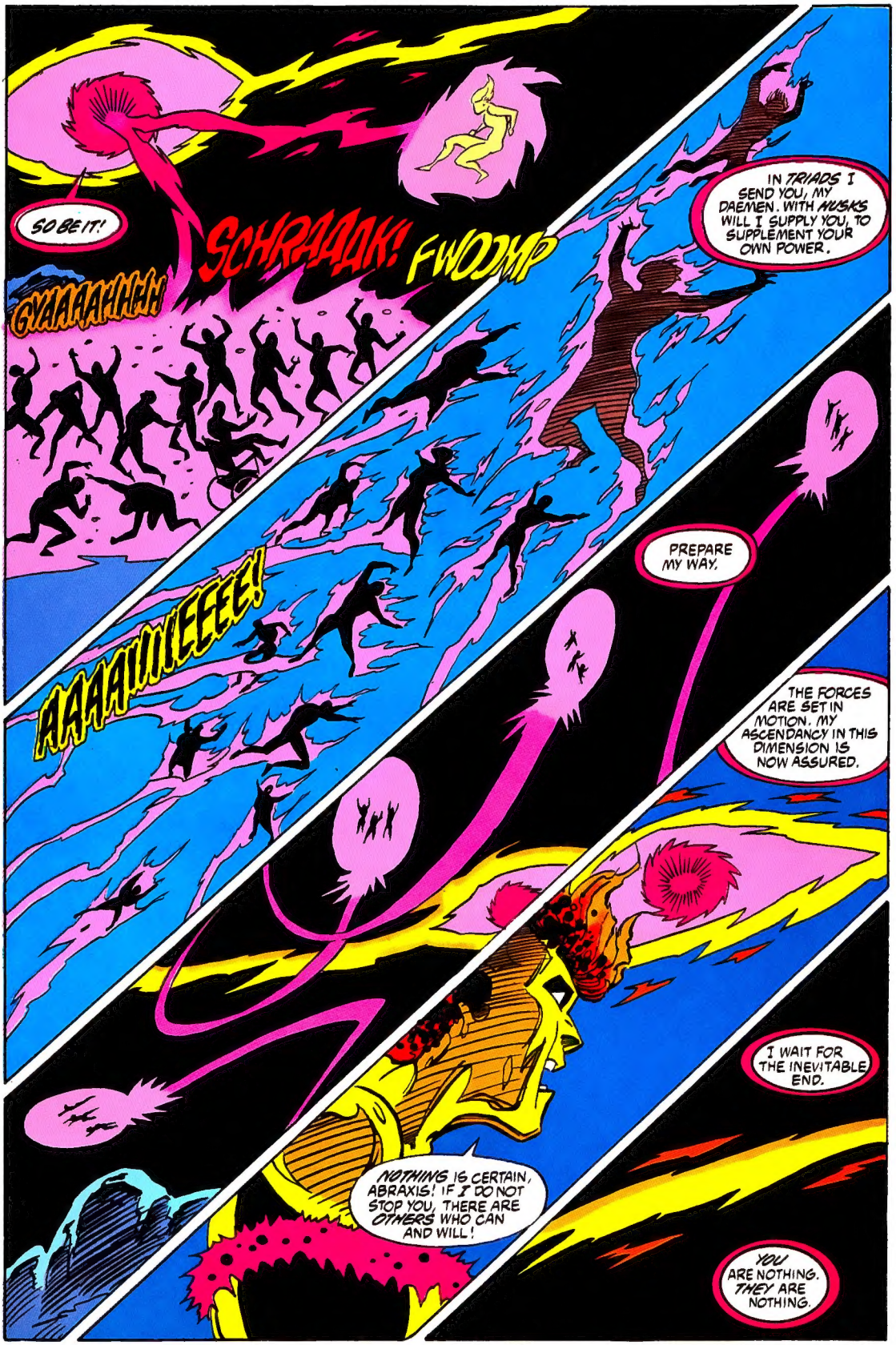

THAT SUCCESS, THAT FAILURE, ARE BOTH BEHIND AND BEFORE HIM. HE HAS FACED DOWN ONE FORM OF ARMAGEDDON. HE IS ABOUT TO BE CONFRONTED WITH ANOTHER.
ARRRGGHH!
THAT FELT.. LIKE I WAS BEING STABBED! THE TIME-STREAM ITSELF HAS BEEN RIPPED!
SOMEWHERE... SOMEWHEN... THERE'S SOMETHING TERRIBLY WRONG WITH THE VERY FABRIC OF TIME AND SPACE!
BY TRACKING THE REVERBERATION OF THE ASSAULT, I CAN FIND OUT WHERE AND WHEN IT'S TAKING PLACE--
BEFORE THE VERY FABRIC OF REALITY IS TORN ASUNDER!
AT THE SOURCE OF THE DISRUPTION, A LITTLE KNOWN VALLEY IN WYOMING CALLED THE DEVIL'S BONES. PRESENT DAY.
TWELVE GATHER HERE, DRAWN FROM ALL PARTS OF THE EARTH, NOT TRULY KNOWING WHY. TWELVE SULLEN, ANGRY SOULS, TWELVE PETTY, MEAN, VINDICTIVE SPIRITS, LOOKING FOR A GOD TO RECIPROCATE THEIR HATE.
MAIL, ABRAXIS! IN OUR SOULS, WE HAVE HEARD YOUR WHISPERS AND THE PROMISES THAT YOU HAVE MADE TO US.
YOU KNOW THE DARK DREAMS, THE SECRET DESIRES, THE BITTER FANTASIES THAT FIRE US. WE OPEN OUR SOULS, LINKING THEM WITH YOU, CALLING YOU HERE.
THEY SPEAK, HESITANTLY, EACH IN HIS OWN TONGUE, AND FIND THEY ARE ALL SAYING THE SAME WORDS -- AN INVOCATION, AN INVITATION TO A BEING WHOSE NAME THEY ONLY NOW BEGIN TO SENSE AT THE PERIPHERY OF THEIR SOULS.

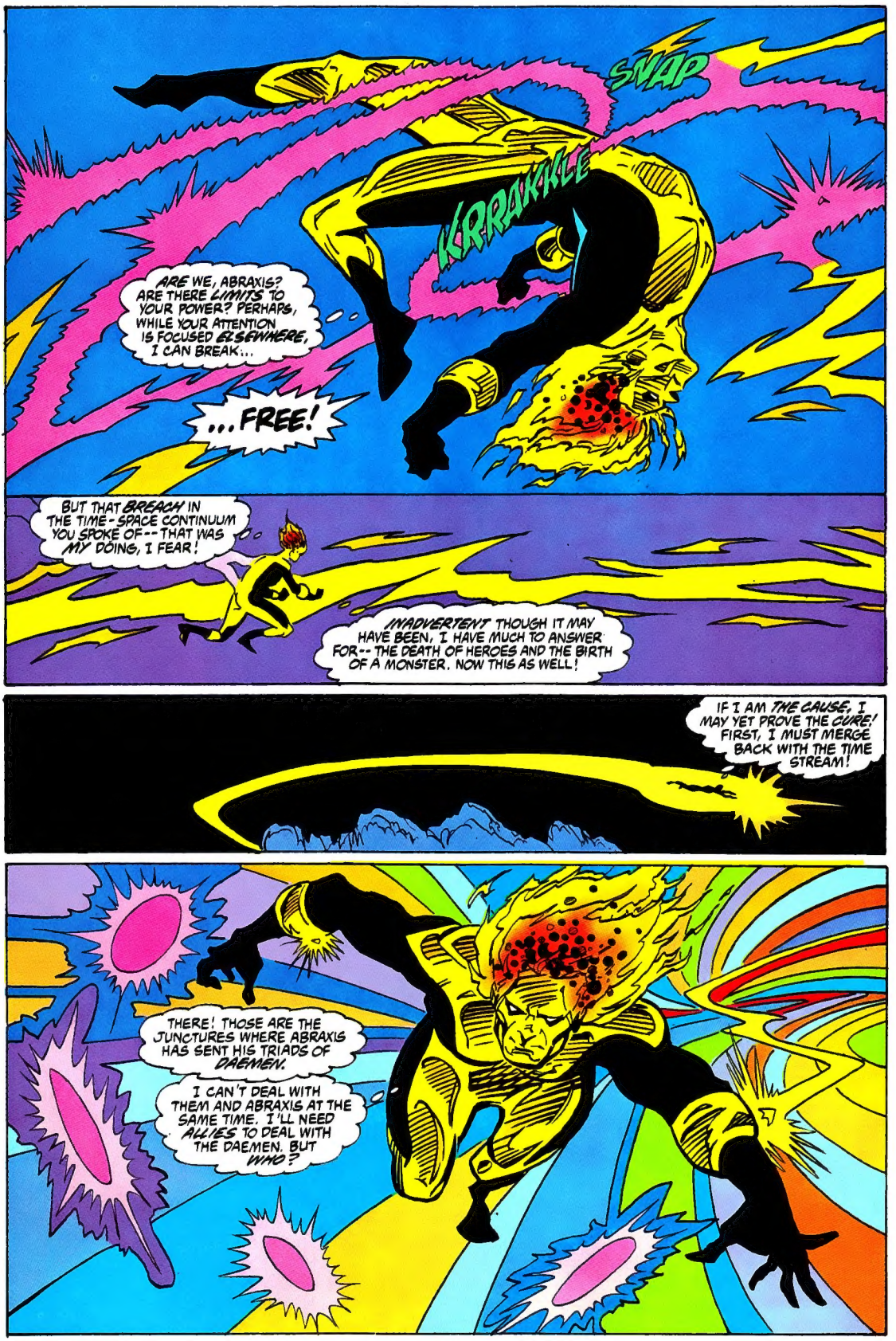
COME, DARKNESS!
COME, FIRE!
WE OF THIS WORLD CALL YOU FROM YOUR DWELLING!
COME FORTH, ABRAXIS!
SHAKATHOOM

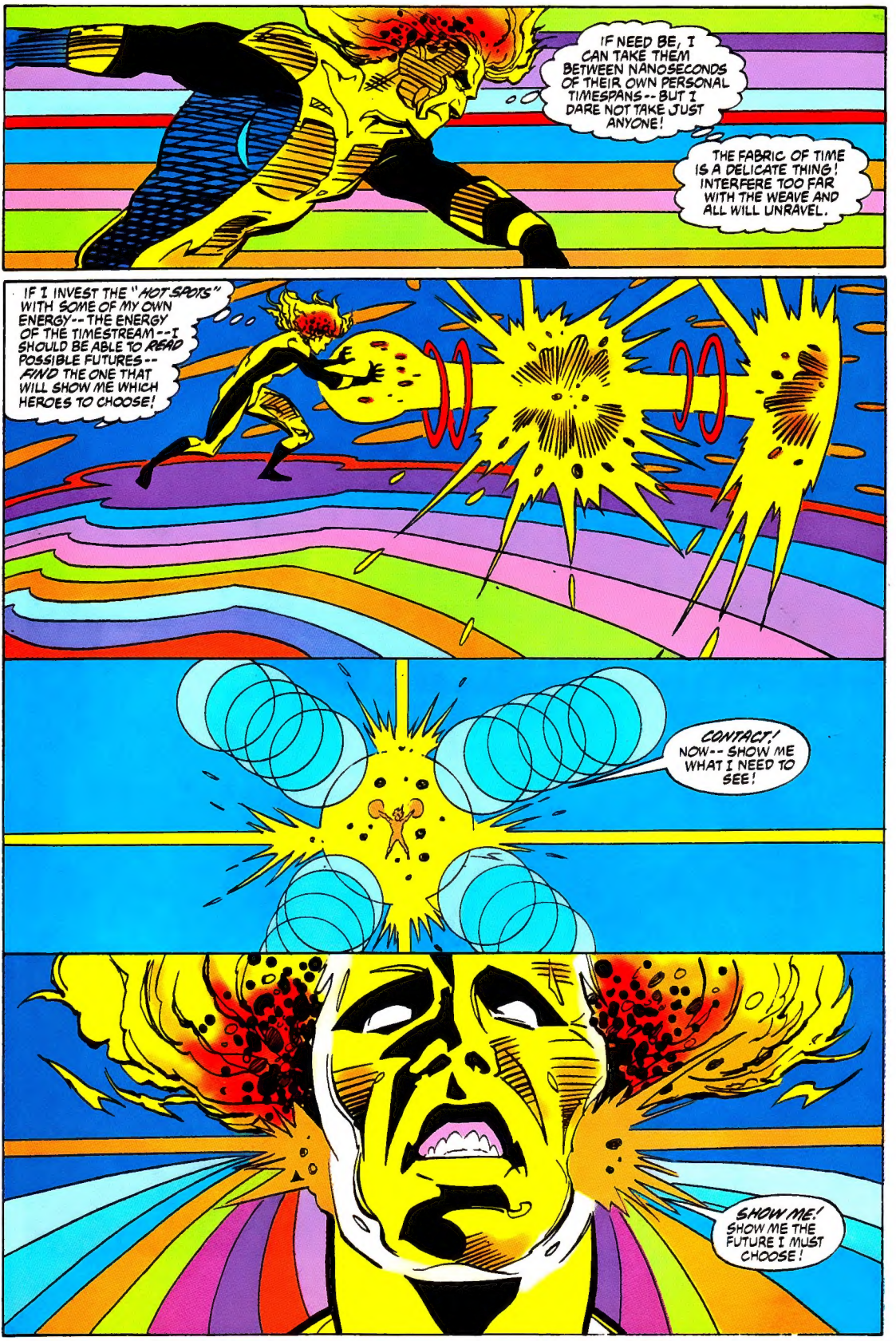
KKKKRAKKKKKLLE!
KKKRRAKKADOOM!
ABRAXIS HAS COME.


ARE YOU THE ONES WHO HAVE OPENED THE WAY? DO YOU BID ABRAXIS COME?
WE ARE. WE DO.
NO!
YOU OPEN A GATEWAY TO A WHOLE DIFFERENT DIMENSION!' THE PHYSICAL LAWS THERE MAY NOT BE THE SAME AS HERE! YOU MAY DESTROY YOUR OWN REALITY!
CLOSE THE GATE!
SILENCE!
T-TRAPPED? BUT MY BODY IS COMPOSED OF PURE ENERGY! HOW CAN IT BE TRAPPED?!

BY A BEING OF GREATER ENERGY.
HEAR ME, WHO I HAVE CALLED TOGETHER! IT IS TIME WE MADE OUR PACT.
IN MY OWN UNIVERSE, I HAVE MADE MYSELF SUPREME. I SUP UPON SOULS AND THIS FEEDS MY POWER.
BUT I HAVE GROWN RESTLESS.
THE CREATURES I RULE ARE BUT CATTLE ON WHOSE SOULS I FEED. AFTER, THEY ARE ONLY MINDLESS HUSKS, DEVOID OF ANY WILL SAVE MINE.
A BREACH IN YOUR OWN TIME-SPACE CONTINUUM BROUGHT IT TO MY ATTENTION BUT I CANNOT CROSS DIRECTLY OVER AND RETAIN MY POWER.
I NEED YOU TO GROW FOUR SIMULACRA FOR ME IN FOUR DIFFERENT AGES THAT I MAY THEN POSSESS. THEN I MAY TAKE POSSESSION OF ALL TIME AND SPACE IN YOUR DIMENSION.
TO THIS END, YOU MUST WILLINGLY GIVE ME YOUR SOULS. I WILL THEN COMBINE THEM WITH SOME OF MY OWN FORCE AND RETURN THEM TO YOU, TRANSFORMING YOU INTO MY DAEMEN.
AND WHEN I HAVE CONQUERED YOUR DIMENSION, YOU WILL RULE THIS UNIVERSE FOR ME, FEEDING ME AND YOURSELF ITS SOULS, AND WE WILL BE GREAT AND TAKE OTHER DIMENSIONS.
ARE YOU WILLING TO GIVE ME YOUR SOULS?
YES. WE SO WISH IT.
NO! HOW CAN YOU GIVE HIM YOUR VERY SOULS?
THEY'RE NOT MUCH TO GIVE FOR WHAT WE CAN GET. AND WE'VE HAD NOTHING. WE'LL DO IT.

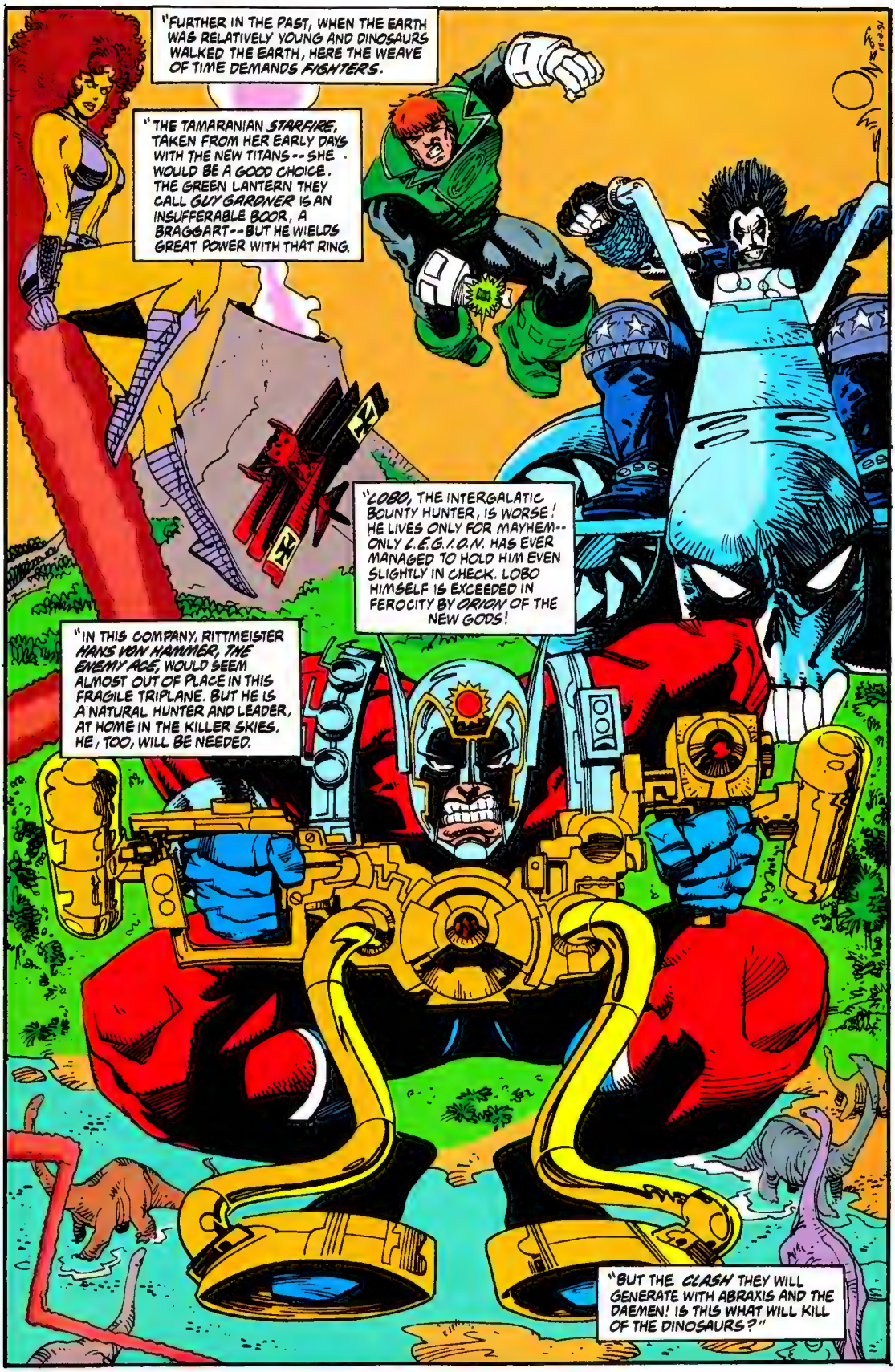

SO BE IT!
SCHRAAAK!
FWOOMP
GYAAAAHHH
AAAAIIIEEEE!
IN TRIADS I SEND YOU, MY DAEMEN. WITH MUSAKS WILL I SUPPLY YOU, TO SUPPLEMENT YOUR OWN POWER.
PREPARE MY WAY.
THE FORCES ARE SET IN MOTION. MY ASCENDANCY IN THIS DIMENSION IS NOW ASSURED.
I WAIT FOR THE INEVITABLE END.
NOTHING IS CERTAIN, ABRAXIS! IF I DO NOT STOP YOU, THERE ARE OTHERS WHO CAN AND WILL!
YOU ARE NOTHING. THEY ARE NOTHING.

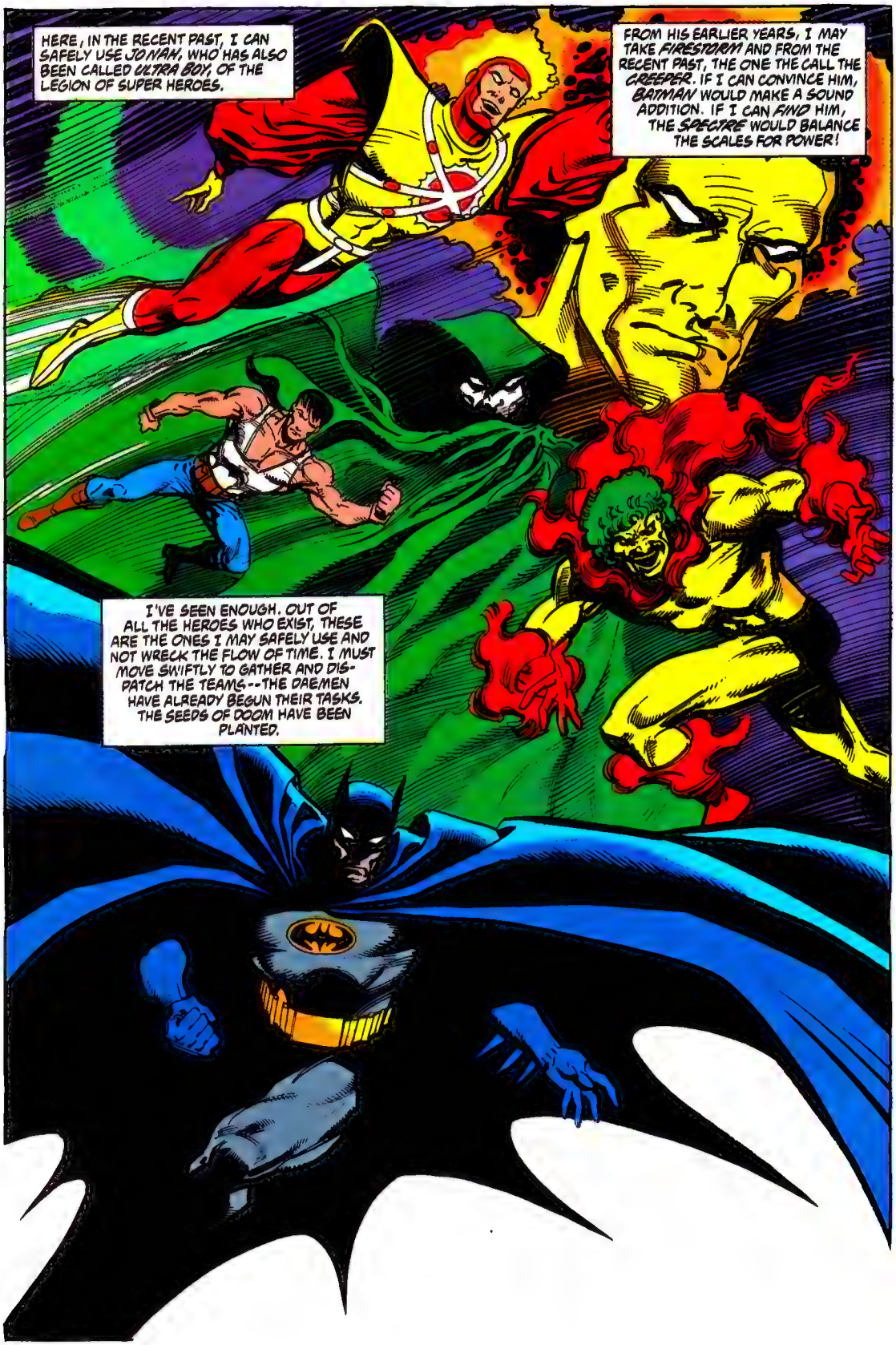

SNAP
KRRAKKLE
ARE WE, ABRAXIS? ARE THERE LIMITS TO YOUR POWER? PERHAPS, WHILE YOUR ATTENTION IS FOCUSED ELSEWHERE, I CAN BREAK...
...FREE!
BUT THAT BREACH IN THE TIME-SPACE CONTINUUM YOU SPOKE OF--THAT WAS MY DOING, I FEAR!
INVADVERTENT THOUGH IT MAY HAVE BEEN, I HAVE MUCH TO ANSWER FOR--THE DEATH OF HEROES AND THE BIRTH OF A MONSTER. NOW THIS AS WELL!
IF I AM THE CAUSE, I MAY YET PROVE THE CURE! FIRST, I MUST MERGE BACK WITH THE TIME STREAM!
THERE! THOSE ARE THE JUNCTURES WHERE ABRAXIS HAS SENT HIS TRIADS OF DAEMEN.
I CAN'T DEAL WITH THEM AND ABRAXIS AT THE SAME TIME. I'LL NEED ALLIES TO DEAL WITH THE DAEMEN. BUT WHO?


IF NEED BE, I CAN TAKE THEM BETWEEN NANOSECONDS OF THEIR OWN PERSONAL TIMESPANS -- BUT I DARE NOT TAKE JUST ANYONE!
THE FABRIC OF TIME IS A DELICATE THING! INTERFERE TOO FAR WITH THE WEAVE AND ALL WILL UNRAVEL.
IF I INVEST THE "HOT SPOTS" WITH SOME OF MY OWN ENERGY -- THE ENERGY OF THE TIMESTREAM -- I SHOULD BE ABLE TO READ POSSIBLE FUTURES -- FIND THE ONE THAT WILL SHOW ME WHICH HEROES TO CHOOSE!
CONTACT! NOW -- SHOW ME WHAT I NEED TO SEE!
SHOW ME! SHOW ME THE FUTURE I MUST CHOOSE!

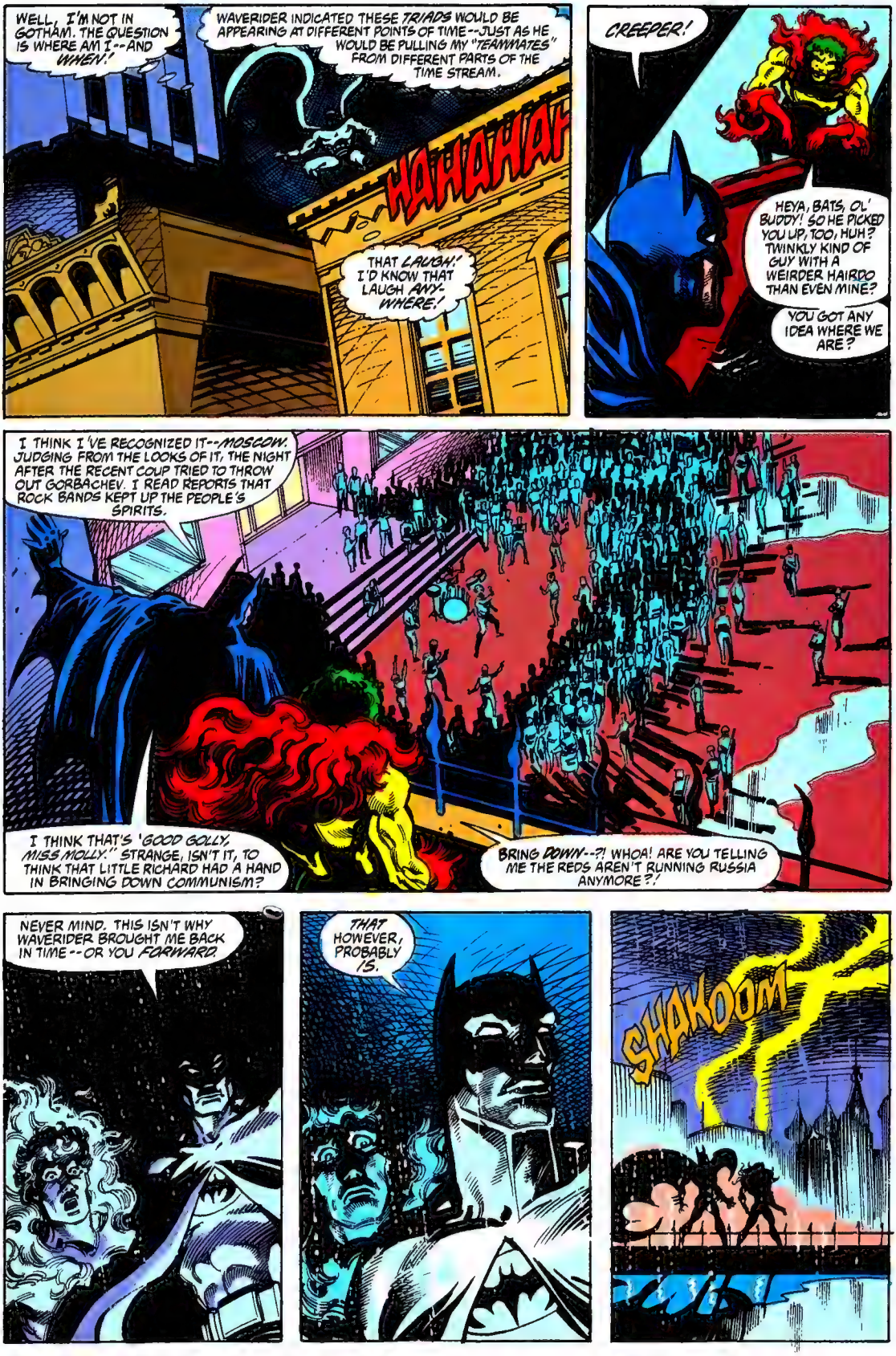
"INTO THE FUTURE -- A TIME BEYOND THE ONE THAT CREATED ME -- THE TIME WHEN THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES LIES DORMANT.
"THEIR OWN TIMELINES ARE IN FLUX IN THIS PERIOD AND I DARE NOT USE ANY OF THEM HERE, ALTHOUGH ONE MAY BE OF USE TO ME IN ANOTHER TIME.
"INTO THIS TIME I SEE I CAN CALL THE FOLLOWING -- SUPERMAN, WONDER WOMAN, TROIA, FLASH, POWER GIRL, AND MARTIAN MANHUNTER. AS GREAT AN ASSEMBLAGE OF POWER AS SEEN IN ANY ERA.
"WILL THEY BE ENOUGH AGAINST ABRAXIS?

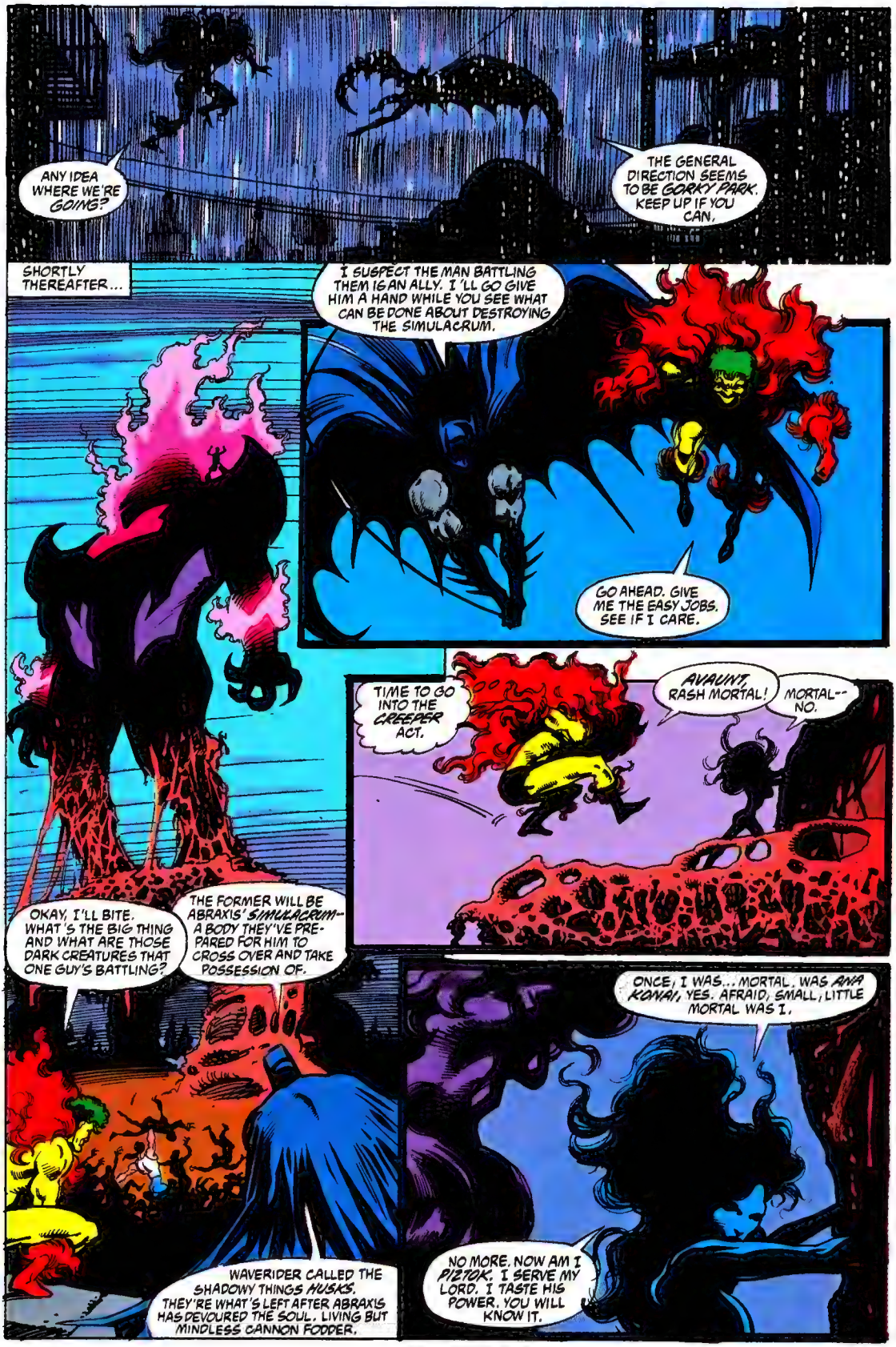
"HERE, DURING THE ERA THEY CALLED THE SECOND WORLD WAR, MY CHOICES ARE FAR MORE LIMITED. FOR SOME REASON, I SEE I DARE NOT USE ANY TRUE METAHUMANS.
"FOR THE MOST PART, I SHALL HAVE TO RELY ON THOSE WHO FOUGHT THE WAR IN THAT ERA--SOLDIERS SUCH AS SGT. ROCK AND EASY COMPANY, THE NAVAHO ACE THEY CALLED JOHNNY CLOUD, THE TRIO OF GUNNAR, SARGE, AND POOCH.
"TWO OTHERS I MAY SEND BACK FROM THIS TIME--THE THANAGARIANS KATAR HOL AND SHAYERA THAL, WHO HAVE BEEN DUBBED HAWKMAN AND HAWKWOMAN.
"PERHAPS THEIR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CAN HELP STOP THE DAEMEN IN THIS ERA, BUT I HAVE GRAVE MISGIVINGS."


"FURTHER IN THE PAST, WHEN THE EARTH WAS RELATIVELY YOUNG AND DINOSAURS WALKED THE EARTH, HERE THE WEAVE OF TIME DEMANDS FIGHTERS.
"THE TAMARANIAN STARFIRE, TAKEN FROM HER EARLY DAYS WITH THE NEW TITANS -- SHE WOULD BE A GOOD CHOICE. THE GREEN LANTERN THEY CALL GUY GARDNER IS AN INSUFFERABLE BOOR, A BRAGGART -- BUT HE WIELDS GREAT POWER WITH THAT RING.
"LOBO, THE INTERGALATIC BOUNTY HUNTER, IS WORSE! HE LIVES ONLY FOR MAYHEM -- ONLY L.E.G.I.O.N. HAS EVER MANAGED TO HOLD HIM EVEN SLIGHTLY IN CHECK. LOBO HIMSELF IS EXCEEDED IN FEROCITY BY ORION OF THE NEW GODS!
"IN THIS COMPANY, RITTMEISTER HANS VON HAMMER, THE ENEMY ACE, WOULD SEEM ALMOST OUT OF PLACE IN THIS FRAGILE TRIPLANE. BUT HE IS A NATURAL HUNTER AND LEADER, AT HOME IN THE KILLER SKIES. HE, TOO, WILL BE NEEDED.
"BUT THE CLASH THEY WILL GENERATE WITH ABRAXIS AND THE DAEMEN! IS THIS WHAT WILL KILL OF THE DINOSAURS?"


HERE, IN THE RECENT PAST, I CAN SAFELY USE JONAH, WHO HAS ALSO BEEN CALLED ULTRA BOY, OF THE LEGION OF SUPER HEROES.
FROM HIS EARLIER YEARS, I MAY TAKE FIRESTORM AND FROM THE RECENT PAST, THE ONE THE CALL THE CREEPER. IF I CAN CONVINCE HIM, BATMAN WOULD MAKE A SOUND ADDITION. IF I CAN FIND HIM, THE SPECTRE WOULD BALANCE THE SCALES FOR POWER!
I'VE SEEN ENOUGH. OUT OF ALL THE HEROES WHO EXIST, THESE ARE THE ONES I MAY SAFELY USE AND NOT WRECK THE FLOW OF TIME. I MUST MOVE SWIFTLY TO GATHER AND DISPATCH THE TEAMS--THE DAEMEN HAVE ALREADY BEGUN THEIR TASKS. THE SEEDS OF DOOM HAVE BEEN PLANTED.

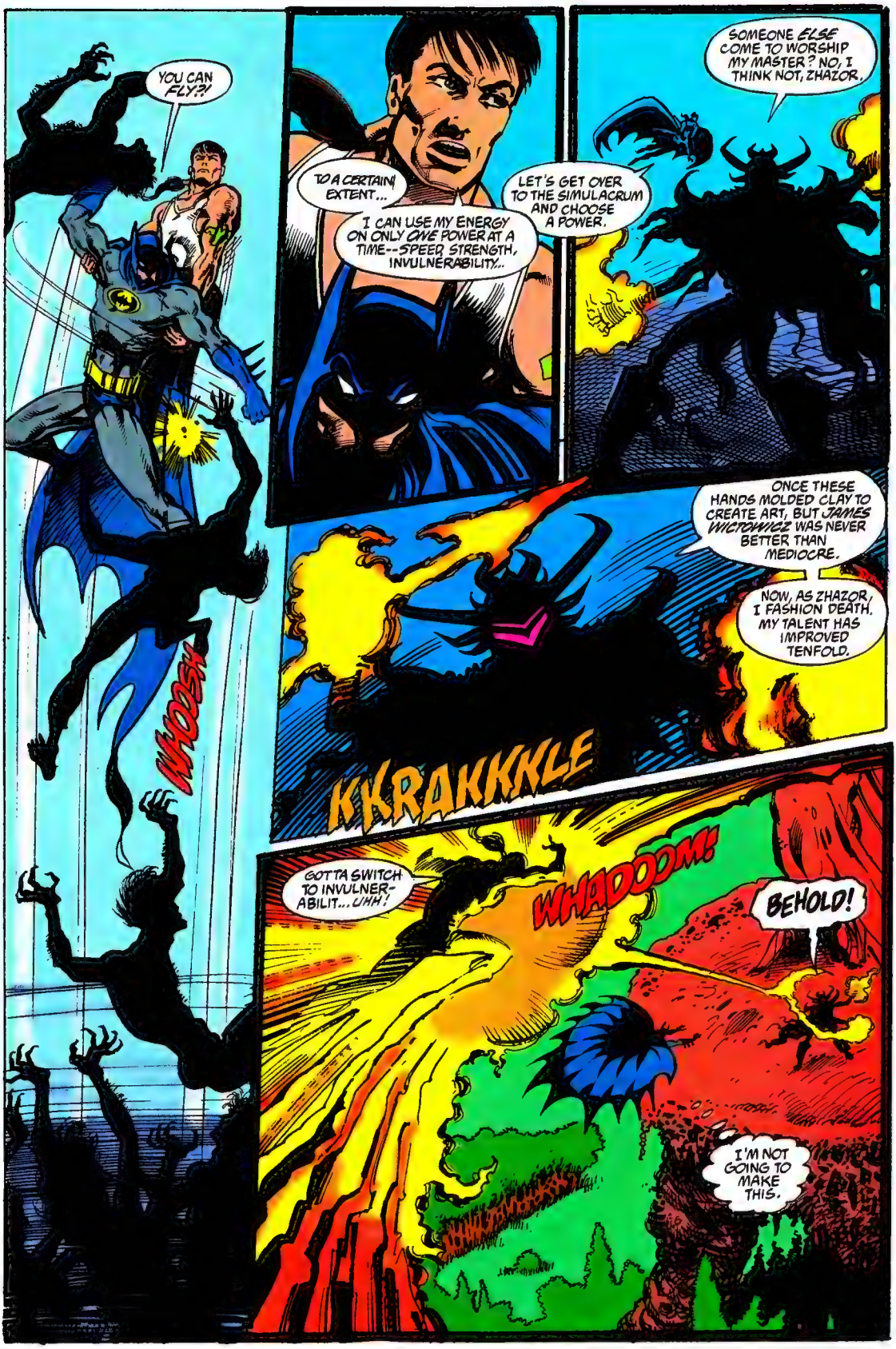
GOTHAM CITY.
STILL PRESENT DAY.
HULLO, BATMAN. GLAD YOU COULD COME.
YOU'RE NOT COMMISSIONER GORDON.
WHO ARE YOU? WHY DID YOU LIGHT THE BATSIGNAL?
YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M NOT. HOW DID YOU KNOW?
THERE WAS A NIMBUS ABOUT YOU. GORDON TENDS NOT TO GLOW. HE'S ALSO GIVEN UP SMOKING.
WHAT DO YOU WANT, WAVERIDER?
AFTER THE EXPLANATION...
I WASN'T AWARE THAT YOU HAD THE ABILITY TO ACTUALLY SHIFT PEOPLE IN TIME.
I'VE... ACQUIRED THIS DEVICE FROM... SOME INDIVIDUALS IN THE FUTURE.
I'M NOT SURE WHY YOU WANT ME. COSMIC IS NOT MY STRONG POINT.
THERE ARE ONLY SO MANY PERSONS AT SO MANY JUNCTURES IN THEIR LIFE THAT I MAY USE WITHOUT UPSETTING THE DELICATE BALANCE OF TIME.
MOREOVER, YOU KNOW HOW TO FIGHT. ALL EXISTENCE IS AT STAKE. ARE YOU WILLING?
WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, HOW CAN I REFUSE?
THEN COME. I'LL TAKE YOU WHERE YOU MUST GO AND THEN RECRUIT YOUR ALLIES.


WELL, I'M NOT IN GOTHAM. THE QUESTION IS WHERE AM I--AND WHEN!
WAVERIDER INDICATED THESE TRIADS WOULD BE APPEARING AT DIFFERENT POINTS OF TIME--JUST AS HE WOULD BE PULLING MY "TEAMMATES" FROM DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE TIME STREAM.
HAHAHAH
THAT LAUGH! I'D KNOW THAT LAUGH ANYWHERE!
CREEPER!
HEYA, BATS, OL' BUDDY! SO HE PICKED YOU UP, TOO, HUH? TWINKLY KIND OF GUY WITH A WEIRDER HAIRDO THAN EVEN MINE?
YOU GOT ANY IDEA WHERE WE ARE?
I THINK I'VE RECOGNIZED IT--MOSCOW. JUDGING FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, THE NIGHT AFTER THE RECENT COUP TRIED TO THROW OUT GORBACHEV. I READ REPORTS THAT ROCK BANDS KEPT UP THE PEOPLE'S SPIRITS.
I THINK THAT'S 'GOOD GOLLY, MISS MOLLY.'' STRANGE, ISN'T IT, TO THINK THAT LITTLE RICHARD HAD A HAND IN BRINGING DOWN COMMUNISM?
BRING DOWN--?! WHOA! ARE YOU TELLING ME THE REDS AREN'T RUNNING RUSSIA ANYMORE?!
NEVER MIND. THIS ISN'T WHY WAVERIDER BROUGHT ME BACK IN TIME--OR YOU FORWARD.
THAT HOWEVER, PROBABLY IS.
SHAKOOM


ANY IDEA WHERE WE'RE GOING?
THE GENERAL DIRECTION SEEMS TO BE GORKY PARK. KEEP UP IF YOU CAN.
SHORTLY THEREAFTER...
I SUSPECT THE MAN BATTLING THEM IS AN ALLY. I'LL GO GIVE HIM A HAND WHILE YOU SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT DESTROYING THE SIMULACRUM.
GO AHEAD. GIVE ME THE EASY JOBS. SEE IF I CARE.
TIME TO GO INTO THE CREEPER ACT.
AVAUNT, RASH MORTAL!
MORTAL-- NO.
OKAY, I'LL BITE. WHAT'S THE BIG THING AND WHAT ARE THOSE DARK CREATURES THAT ONE GUY'S BATTLING?
THE FORMER WILL BE ABRAXIS' SIMULACRUM-- A BODY THEY'VE PREPARED FOR HIM TO CROSS OVER AND TAKE POSSESSION OF.
WAVERIDER CALLED THE SHADOWY THINGS HUSKS. THEY'RE WHAT'S LEFT AFTER ABRAXIS HAS DEVOURED THE SOUL. LIVING BUT MINDLESS CANNON FODDER.
ONCE, I WAS... MORTAL. WAS ANA KONAI, YES. AFRAID, SMALL, LITTLE MORTAL WAS I.
NO MORE. NOW AM I PIZTOK. I SERVE MY LORD. I TASTE HIS POWER. YOU WILL KNOW IT.

WHOA-HO!
LADY, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE DOING THIS TO ME PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY...
NOR DO I MUCH CARE, WITCH! YOU'RE JUST ABOUT IN MY REACH...!
WHAM!
GREAT. JUST GREAT! YOU PLAY THE GAME NICE AND THEN THEY CHANGE THE RULES!
WHUPS! THIS LAVA BED WASN'T HERE A SECOND AGO!
AND THIS WALL WASN'T CREEPING FORWARD A MOMENT AGO!
WOULD YOU PLAY GAMES WITH ME, RASH MORTAL?!
SHALL I TRY SOME TRICKS OF MY OWN!?!
HAHAHAHA

IS NO GAME. THE MAZE DOES NOT END. THE TRAPS WILL NOT CEASE. SOONER OR LATER, YOU WILL DIE.
EVERYONE DIES.
YOU GO FIRST!
HAHA HAHA
ELSEWHERE IN GORKY PARK...
BATMAN?! THEN THIS IS YOUR ERA?!
WHUMP
YOU HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF ME, FRIEND.
THE NAME'S JONAH. I USED TO BE CALLED ULTRA BOY. I'M WITH THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES A COUPLE OF CENTURIES IN THE FUTURE.
SOME GUY WITH ELECTRIC HAIR TOLD ME HE WAS FROM A FUTURE THAT WAS NO LONGER A FUTURE AND, ANYWAY, THE ERA WAS IN MY PAST AND SAID HE NEEDED MY HELP. I AGREED TO HELP JUST TO SHUT HIM UP. LISTEN, CAN YOU BUY ME A SECOND?
YOU WANT...
...A SECOND, YOU GOT...
...A SECOND.
WHOK
CHOK
THOK


YOU CAN FLY?!
WHOOSH
TO A CERTAIN EXTENT...
I CAN USE MY ENERGY ON ONLY ONE POWER AT A TIME--SPEED, STRENGTH, INVULNERABILITY...
LET'S GET OVER TO THE SIMULACRUM AND CHOOSE A POWER.
SOMEONE ELSE COME TO WORSHIP MY MASTER? NO, I THINK NOT, ZHAZOR.
ONCE THESE HANDS MOLDED CLAY TO CREATE ART, BUT JAMES WICTOWICZ WAS NEVER BETTER THAN MEDIOCRE.
NOW, AS ZHAZOR, I FASHION DEATH. MY TALENT HAS IMPROVED TENFOLD.
KKRAKKKLE
GOT TA SWITCH TO INVULNER-ABILIT... UHH!
WHADOOM!
BEHOLD!
I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE THIS.

HOLD ON, BATMAN! CAN'T LET A FELLOW JUSTICE LEAGUER BECOME A RED SMEAR NEAR RED SQUARE, EH?
FIRESTORM! FROM THE LOOKS OF HIM, FROM BEFORE HE LEARNED HE WAS A FIRE ELEMENTAL AND WENT THROUGH ALL HIS CHANGES.
WHAT'S THE SCAM, BATMAN?
FZAP
SCHRAMM
AW, C'MON, PROFESSOR! IT'LL BE A SNAP! WHO'S GETTING COCKY?!
GET THE GUY WITH THE BURNING HANDS AND THEN DESTROY THE SIMULACRUM!
GLAD TO SEE YOU SURVIVED, BATMAN.
YES.
BUT WE'RE NOT GETTING THE JOB DONE AND I GET THE FEELING WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME--BUT NOT HUSKS!

BE OF GOOD FAITH.
YOU DO NOT FIGHT ALONE.
DID YOU THINK I WOULD NOT BE AWARE OF THIS INCURSION INTO MY DIMENSION?
DID YOU THINK I WOULD PERMIT IT?
IS THAT ABRAXIS?
THAT'S THE SPECTRE. THE ODDS JUST SLIPPED HEAVILY IN OUR FAVOR.
EVEN WITHOUT THE INTERCESSION OF WAVERIDER, I WOULD HAVE BECOME AWARE OF YOU.
BEGONE. THIS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.

YEW DON'T PERMIT IT, HUH? THET KINDA TALK MIGHTA IMPRESSED TH' HELL OUTA OL' ZEKE MUNROE, BUDDY!
TH' HANDLE'S NOW GULGAK, AND AH AM HELL, AND I DON'T MUCH CARE WHAT YOU WILL OR WON'T ALLOW!
BLEHARRRGK
PERHAPS... I HAVE UNDERESTIMATED YOU... AND THE OTHERS, GULGAK. BUT YOU ALSO DO NOT UNDERSTAND ME!
THIS MYSTIC SHIELD WILL TURN YOUR FIRE--BUT NOTHING WILL TURN ASIDE MY WRATH!
LET THE FINAL CONFRONTATION BEGIN!

FZAM
KRAK
WHOOOM
WHAM
SAMEEEE
TAG!
YESSS...

WELL DONE, MY DAEMEN! THE TASK IS COMPLETED, THE TIME IS RIPE, THE BATTLE IS CONSUMMATED.
ABRAXIS IS COME!
BATMAN? ARE WE IN TROUBLE?
YES.
CONTINUED--

Sea of Troubles
"...OR TO TAKE ARMS AGAINST A SEA OF TROUBLES AND, BY OPPOSING, END THEM."
-- Wm. Shakespeare, HAMLET
THE HOME DIMENSION OF THE DEMON ABRAXIS.
HIS CASTLE DOMINATES THE LANDSCAPE AS THE WILL OF ABRAXIS DOMINATES NOT ONLY THIS WORLD, BUT THIS WHOLE UNIVERSE.

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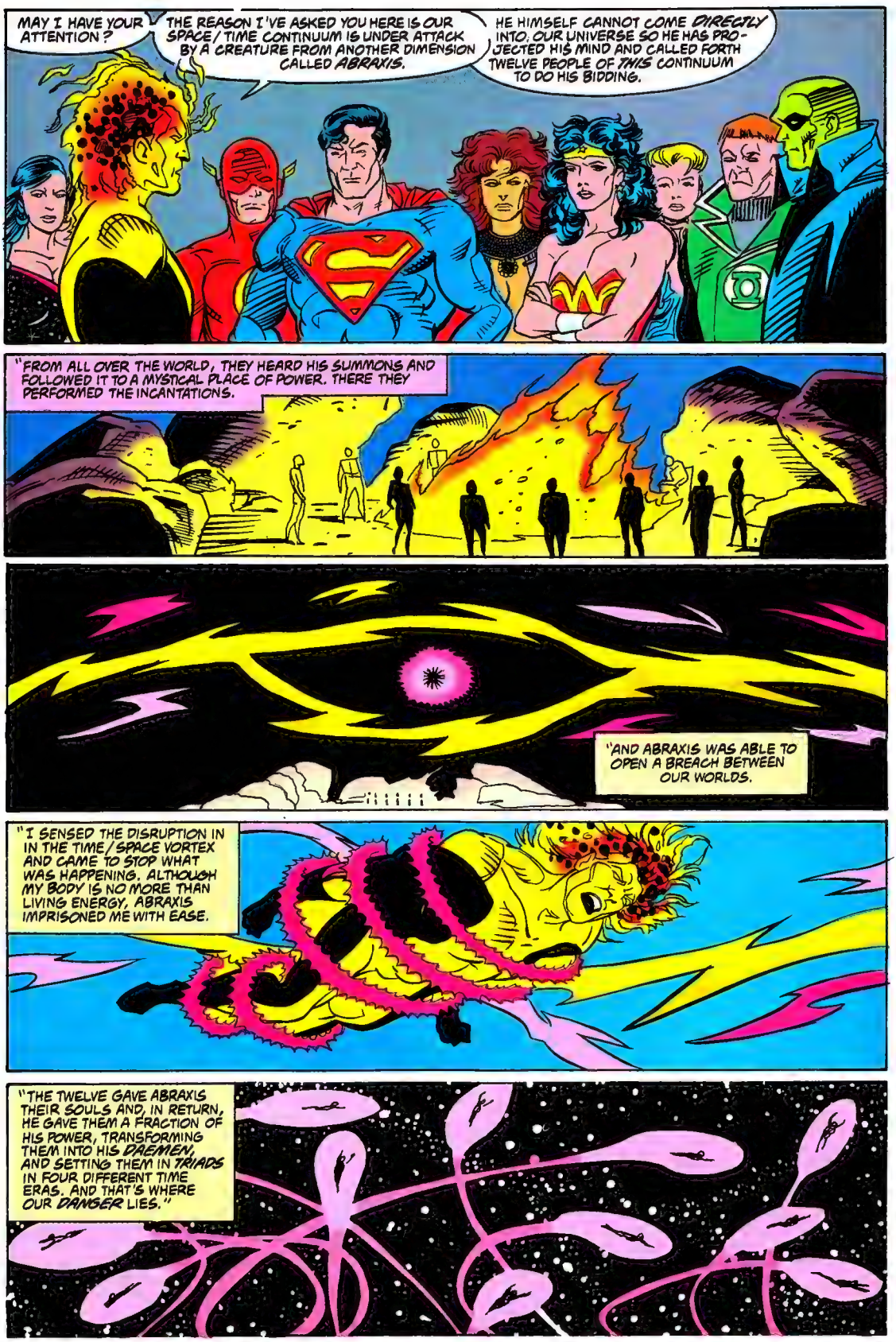
ABRAXIS FEEDS ON SOULS. THE ONLY PURPOSE TO THE BEINGS HERE IS TO BREED AND SUPPLY HIM WITH NEW SOULS. HE ALLOWS THEM NO OTHER FUNCTION THAN AS CATTLE.
THIS BOY HAS NO NAME. HE HAS NO LANGUAGE. HE HAS NO CIVILIZATION, NO LEGENDS, NO MYTHS, NO HEROES TO SUSTAIN HIS SPIRIT.
HE KNOWS NO OTHER LIFE. THERE IS ONLY THE NEED TO FEED, THE CONSTANT FEAR AND DESPAIR THIS LIFE ENGENDERS, AND DEEP LONGINGS FOR WHICH HE HAS NO NAME.
AND A HATE THAT WARS WITH HIS FEAR EVERY TIME HE LOOKS AT THE CASTLE WHERE ABRAXIS ABIDES.
EEEEEEEEEE

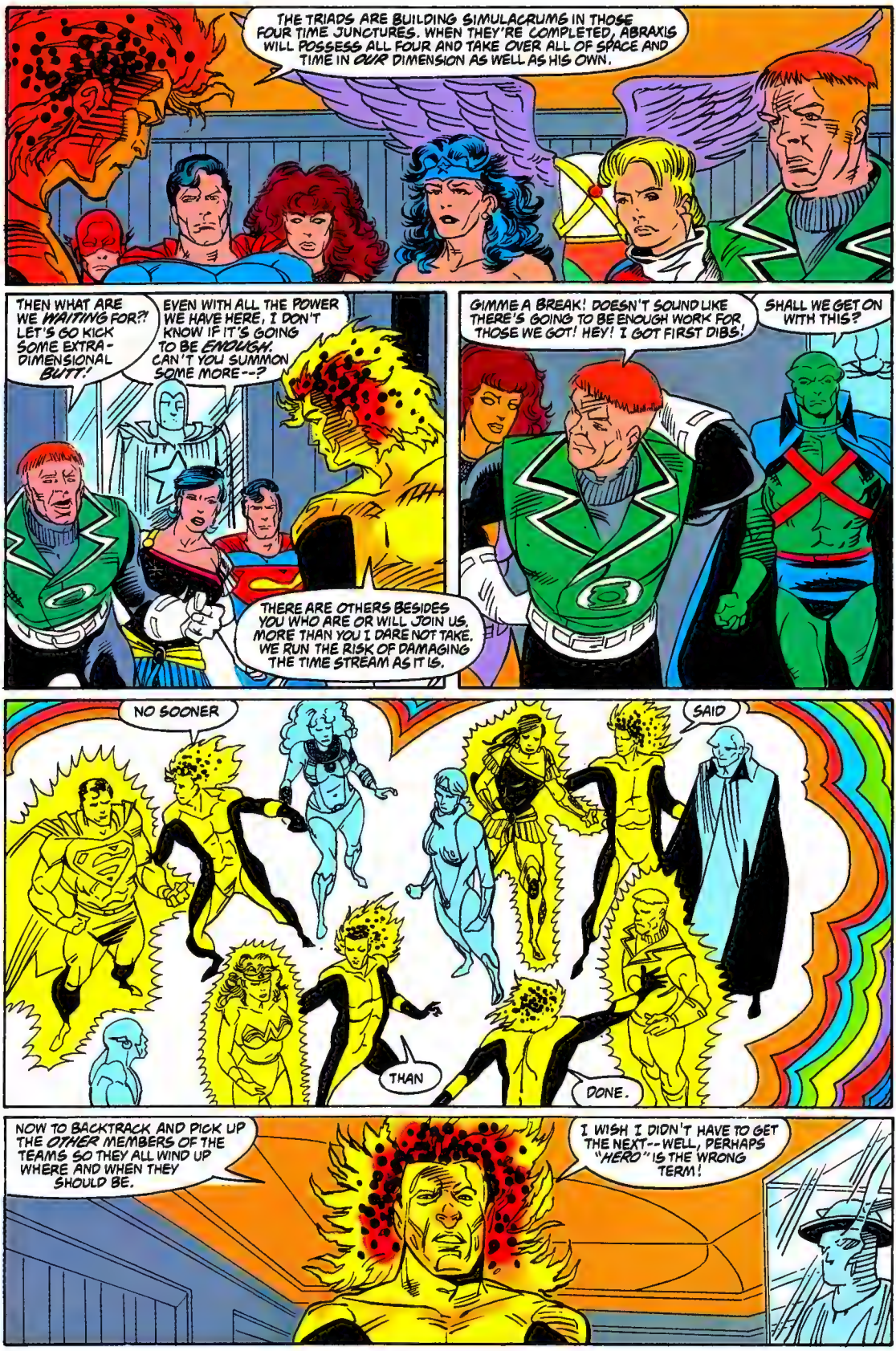
HURR?
THE SCENE IS REPEATED OVER AND OVER ON THIS WORLD. THE WEAK PREY UPON THE STRONG--AS FOOD OR FOR PROCREATION.
IT IS ALL ABRAXIS ALLOWS. WHAT OTHER NEEDS DO CATTLE HAVE?
A MEMORY STIRS WITHIN THE HE. PERHAPS IT IS OF HIS OWN MOTHER, DYING TO TRY TO SAVE HIM. BUT HE HAS NO WORD FOR MOTHER. "MOTHER" IS NOT A CONCEPT THE DARK LORD ALLOWS.
STILL, THERE IS THE URGE WITHIN THE HE TO DEFEND THE SHE AGAINST THE PACK THAT ABUSE HER BODY. AN URGE BEYOND HIS OWN LIFE AND HIS OWN SELF-PRESERVATION--FOR HE HIMSELF WOULD SURELY DIE IN BATTLE AGAINST SO MANY.
IN THE END, HE ONLY WEEPS, NOT UNDERSTANDING WHY.
THIS IS THE REALITY OF ABRAXIS--A REALITY HE WOULD EXTEND TO OTHER WORLDS.

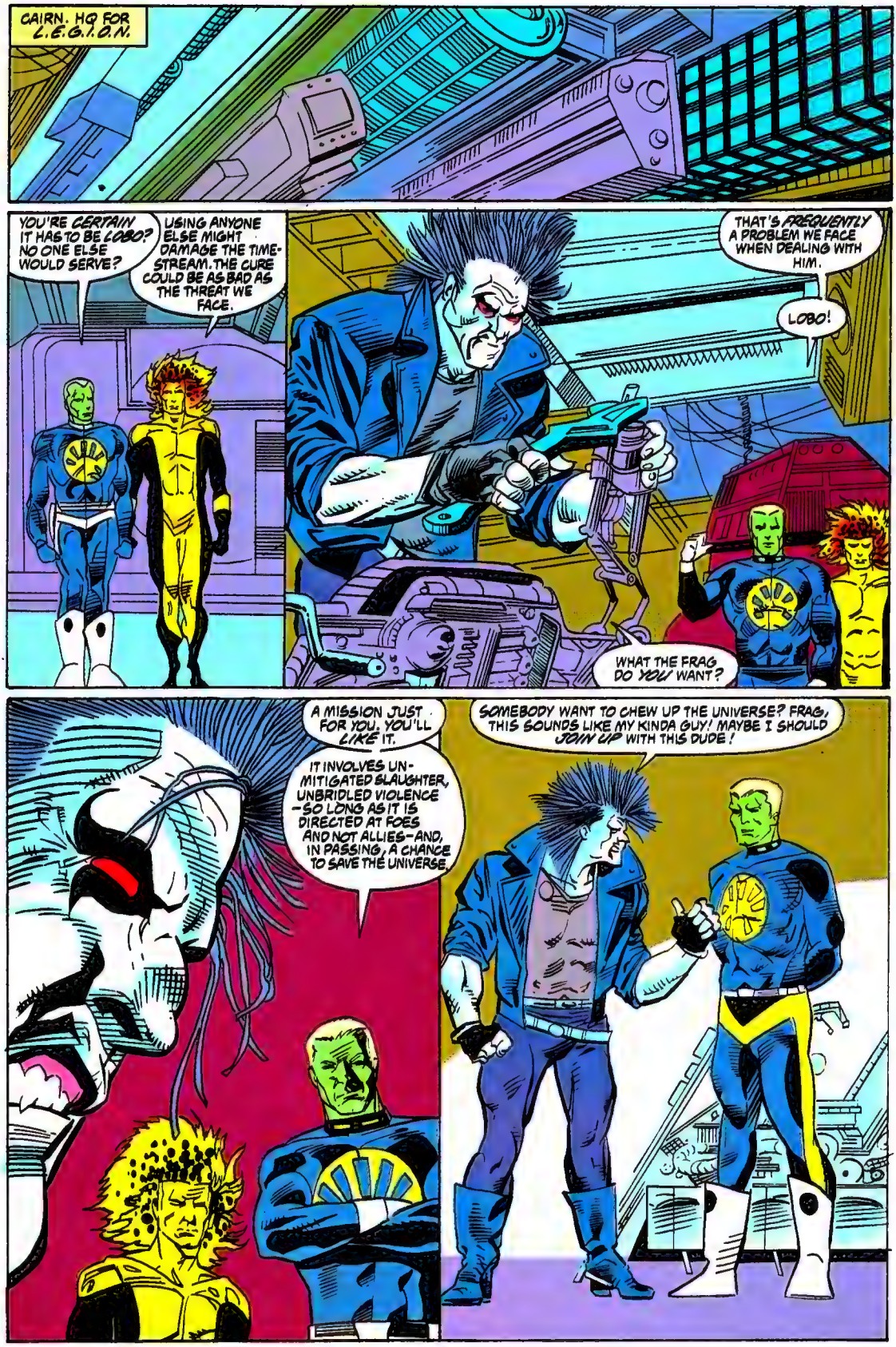
WORLDS SUCH AS THIS ONE.
METROPOLIS.
... AND I'LL HAVE A BIG LAFFER, LARGE FRIES, AND A LARGE DIET COLA. FOR HERE.
YOU KNOW, LOIS, THIS ISN'T REALLY THE *HEALTHIEST* MEAL YOU'VE COULD'VE CHOSEN.
C'MON, CLARK. IT'S A DIET COLA. AND POTATOES ARE ACTUALLY LOW IN CALORIES.
THAT'S BEFORE THEY DUNK THEM IN BOILING GREASE. EACH SERVING HAS ABOUT *THREE TIMES* THE AMOUNT OF FAT A NORMAL PERSON NEEDS TO CONSUME IN AN ENTIRE DAY.
I NOTICE THAT DOESN'T SEEM TO KEEP *YOU* FROM PIGGING OUT ON THEM.
IT'S ALL IN THE METABOLISM, HONEY. I CAN EAT THEM AND NEVER GAIN AN OUNCE.
YEAH, YEAH -- I KNOW ALL *ABOUT* YOU AND YOUR *METABOLISM!*
NO MORE NO MORE NO MORE!
I HEAR ALL THE WHISPERING! I KNOW ALL THE LYING! NO MORE NO MORE NO MORE!

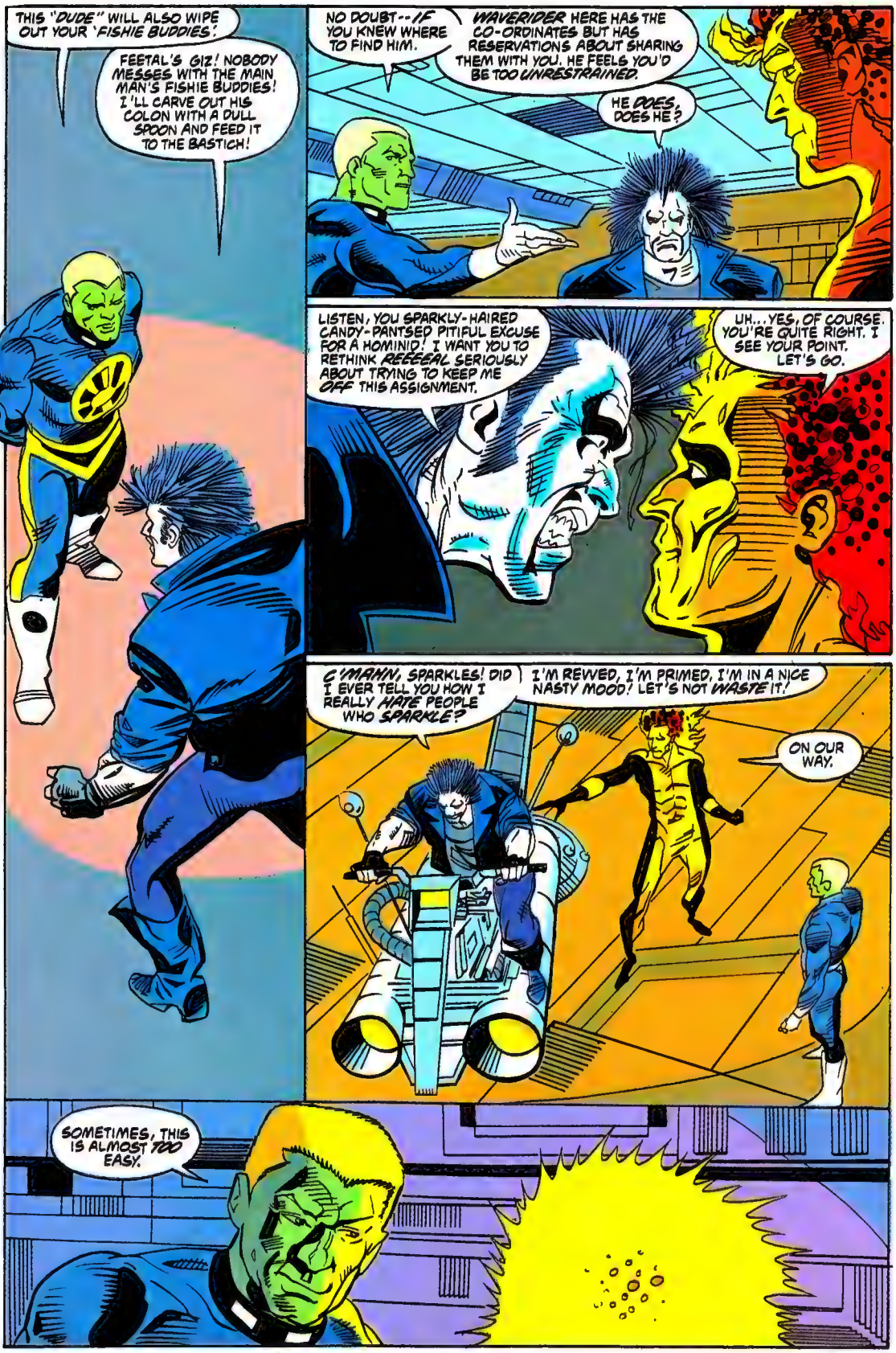
GOOD LORD!
I CAN PROTECT LOIS BUT, EVEN WITH MY SPEED, I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO SAVE EVERYONE HERE! SOMEONE'S ABOUT TO DIE AND I CAN DO NOTHING!
DON'T WORRY, SUPERMAN. YOU HAVE PLENTY OF TIME.
WAVERIDER?!
I'VE FROZEN THE MOMENT IN TIME FOR EVERYONE EXCEPT YOU AND ME.
HERE.
BE CAREFUL. WHEN TIME RESUMES ITS NORMAL FLOW, THOSE BULLETS WILL REGAIN THEIR FULL VELOCITY.
THANKS. I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND.
EXIT
I'D SAY IT'S LUCKY YOU WERE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD BUT I GET THE FEELING THAT LUCK HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT. YOU WERE LOOKING FOR ME?
I WANT YOUR HELP TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE.

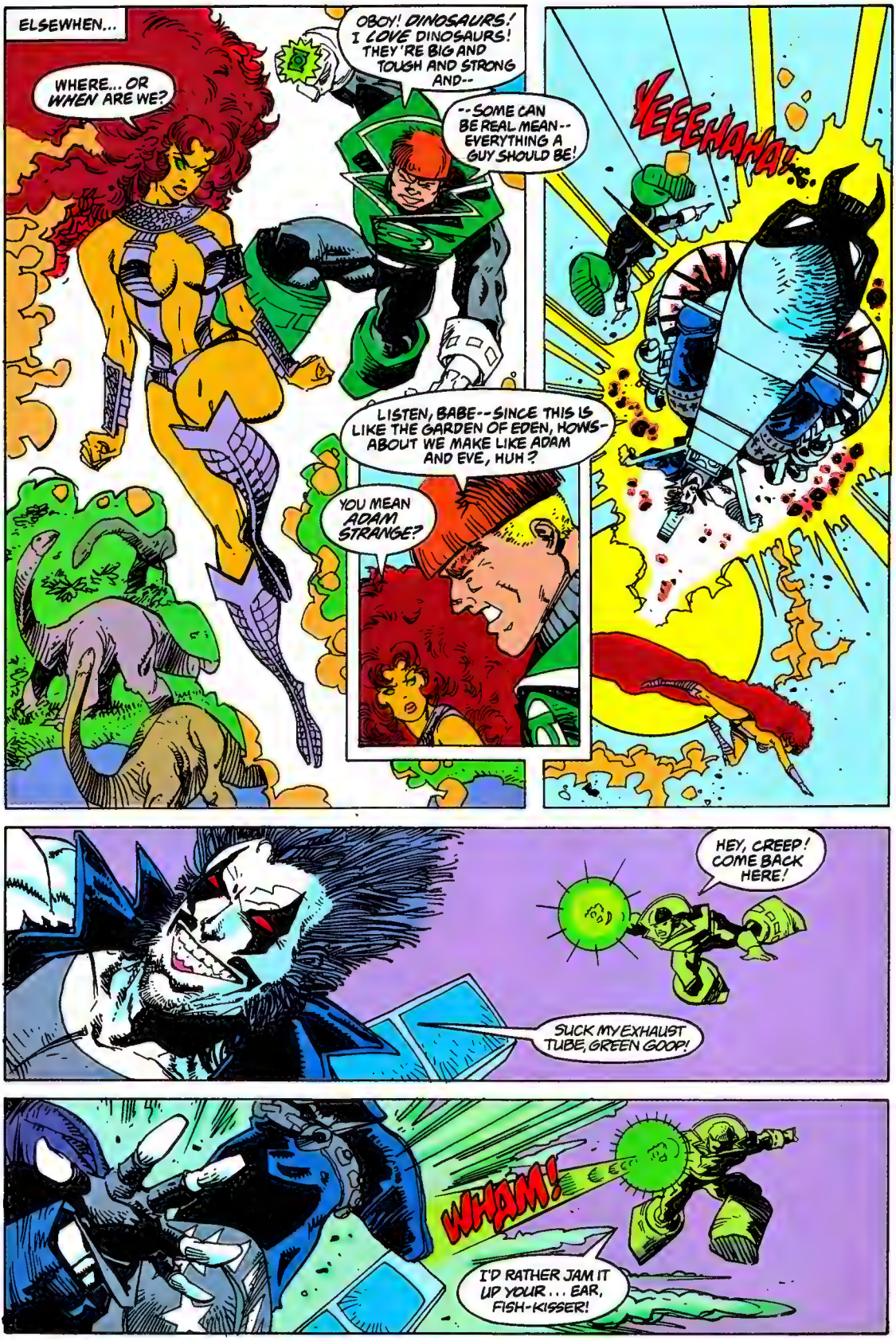
IF YOU PUT IT THAT WAY, I CAN HARDLY REFUSE, CAN I ?
DO I HAVE TIME TO SEE TO THIS DISTURBED MAN FIRST ?
YES. I NEED TO GATHER A FEW OTHERS. CAN YOU SUGGEST A PLACE WE CAN MEET?
HMM. I'M NOT SURE ABOUT ANY JLI LOCATION AT THE MOMENT.
THE OLD HEADQUARTERS OF THE JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA IS NOW USED JUST AS A MUSEUM. A HALL OF HEROES--A PLACE THAT'S A MEMORIAL TO THOSE HEROES--WOULD BE A FITTING PLACE TO GATHER OTHER HEROES.
HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE YOU TO GET THE OTHERS THERE?
I'VE GATHERED THOSE I CAN. WE CAN GO AS SOON AS YOU'RE READY.
SHORTLY...
SO NOT EVERYONE IS FROM THIS TIMEFRAME.
NO. THE WEAVE OF TIME IS TENUOUS AT THIS MOMENT. THE TITANS, ESPECIALLY, HAVE VERY STRANGE VECTORS AROUND THEM, SO I BORROWED THEM FROM BETWEEN NANOSECONDS OF ALMOST A YEAR AGO.
GARDNER AS WELL, SINCE I CAN'T TRUST HIM NOT TO BLURT OUT THINGS THE TITANS SHOULDN'T KNOW.
THESE 40'S GUYS WERE A BUNCH OF DWEEBS. ONLY REAL HERO AMONG 'EM WAS THEIR GREEN LANTERN. FUNNY HOW SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE.
WHAT BECAME OF THE JSA?
THEY DISAPPEARED ON A SECRET MISSION SOME TIME AGO. DR. FATE AND THE SPECTRE SEEM TO KNOW ABOUT IT BUT ALL THEY'LL SAY IS THE JSA IS NOT COMING BACK.
HONEST! I ACTUALLY MET JAY GARRICK BACK IN THE 30'S! IT WAS WITH HAWKMAN AND HAWKWOMAN.
SURE, WALLY. YOU BET.
I DID!

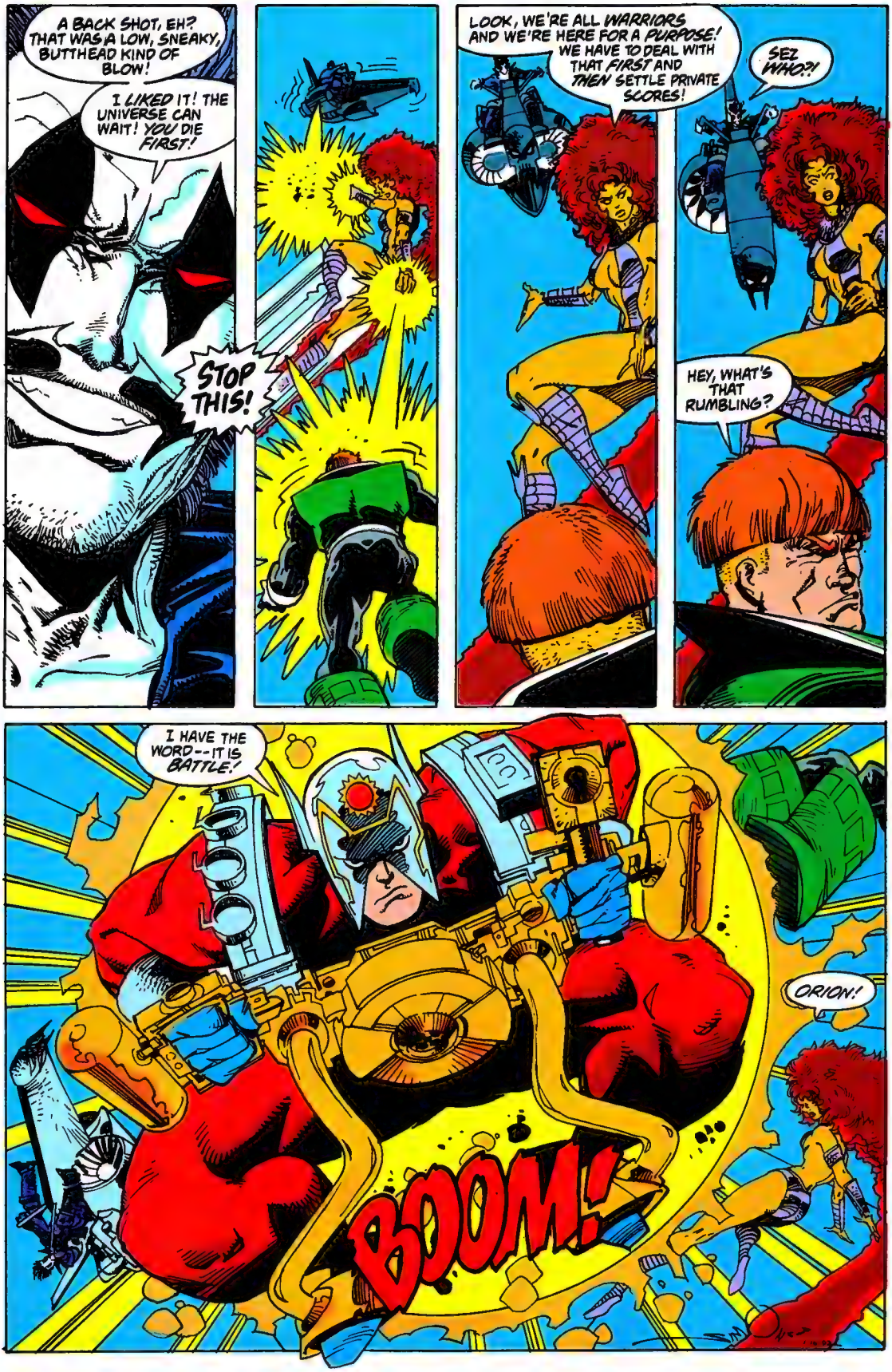

MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION?
THE REASON I'VE ASKED YOU HERE IS OUR SPACE/TIME CONTINUUM IS UNDER ATTACK BY A CREATURE FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION CALLED ABRAXIS.
HE HIMSELF CANNOT COME DIRECTLY INTO OUR UNIVERSE SO HE HAS PROJECTED HIS MIND AND CALLED FORTH TWELVE PEOPLE OF THIS CONTINUUM TO DO HIS BIDDING.
"FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, THEY HEARD HIS SUMMONS AND FOLLOWED IT TO A MYSTICAL PLACE OF POWER. THERE THEY PERFORMED THE INCANTATIONS.
"AND ABRAXIS WAS ABLE TO OPEN A BREACH BETWEEN OUR WORLDS.
"I SENSED THE DISRUPTION IN IN THE TIME/SPACE VORTEX AND CAME TO STOP WHAT WAS HAPPENING. ALTHOUGH MY BODY IS NO MORE THAN LIVING ENERGY, ABRAXIS IMPRISONED ME WITH EASE.
"THE TWELVE GAVE ABRAXIS THEIR SOULS AND, IN RETURN, HE GAVE THEM A FRACTION OF HIS POWER, TRANSFORMING THEM INTO HIS DAEMEN, AND SETTING THEM IN TRIADS IN FOUR DIFFERENT TIME ERAS. AND THAT'S WHERE OUR DANGER LIES."


THE TRIADS ARE BUILDING SIMULACRUMS IN THOSE FOUR TIME JUNCTURES. WHEN THEY'RE COMPLETED, ABRAXIS WILL POSSESS ALL FOUR AND TAKE OVER ALL OF SPACE AND TIME IN OUR DIMENSION AS WELL AS HIS OWN.
THEN WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?! LET'S GO KICK SOME EXTRA-DIMENSIONAL BUTT!
EVEN WITH ALL THE POWER WE HAVE HERE, I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S GOING TO BE ENOUGH. CAN'T YOU SUMMON SOME MORE--?
THERE ARE OTHERS BESIDES YOU WHO ARE OR WILL JOIN US, MORE THAN YOU I DARE NOT TAKE. WE RUN THE RISK OF DAMAGING THE TIME STREAM AS IT IS.
GIMME A BREAK! DOESN'T SOUND LIKE THERE'S GOING TO BE ENOUGH WORK FOR THOSE WE GOT! HEY! I GOT FIRST DIBS!
SHALL WE GET ON WITH THIS?
NO SOONER
SAID
THAN
DONE.
NOW TO BACKTRACK AND PICK UP THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE TEAMS SO THEY ALL WIND UP WHERE AND WHEN THEY SHOULD BE.
I WISH I DIDN'T HAVE TO GET THE NEXT--WELL, PERHAPS "HERO" IS THE WRONG TERM!


CAIRN. HQ FOR L.E.G.I.O.N.
YOU'RE CERTAIN IT HAS TO BE LOBO? NO ONE ELSE WOULD SERVE?
USING ANYONE ELSE MIGHT DAMAGE THE TIME-STREAM. THE CURE COULD BE AS BAD AS THE THREAT WE FACE.
THAT'S FREQUENTLY A PROBLEM WE FACE WHEN DEALING WITH HIM.
LOBO!
WHAT THE FRAG DO YOU WANT?
A MISSION JUST FOR YOU, YOU'LL LIKE IT.
IT INVOLVES UNMITIGATED SLAUGHTER, UNBRIDLED VIOLENCE -SO LONG AS IT IS DIRECTED AT FOES AND NOT ALLIES- AND, IN PASSING, A CHANCE TO SAVE THE UNIVERSE.
SOMEBODY WANT TO CHEW UP THE UNIVERSE? FRAG, THIS SOUNDS LIKE MY KINDA GUY! MAYBE I SHOULD JOIN UP WITH THIS DUDE!


THIS "DUDE" WILL ALSO WIPE OUT YOUR 'FISHIE BUDDIES'.
FEETAL'S GIZ! NOBODY MESSES WITH THE MAIN MAN'S FISHIE BUDDIES! I'LL CARVE OUT HIS COLON WITH A DULL SPOON AND FEED IT TO THE BASTICH!
NO DOUBT--IF YOU KNEW WHERE TO FIND HIM.
WAVERIDER HERE HAS THE CO-ORDINATES BUT HAS RESERVATIONS ABOUT SHARING THEM WITH YOU. HE FEELS YOU'D BE TOO UNRESTRAINED.
HE DOES, DOES HE?
LISTEN, YOU SPARKLY-HAIRED CANDY-PANTSED PITIFUL EXCUSE FOR A HOMINID! I WANT YOU TO RETHINK REEEEAL SERIOUSLY ABOUT TRYING TO KEEP ME OFF THIS ASSIGNMENT.
UH... YES, OF COURSE. YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT. I SEE YOUR POINT. LET'S GO.
C'MAHN, SPARKLES! DID I EVER TELL YOU HOW I REALLY HATE PEOPLE WHO SPARKLE?
I'M REWED, I'M PRIMED, I'M IN A NICE NASTY MOOD! LET'S NOT WASTE IT!
ON OUR WAY.
SOMETIMES, THIS IS ALMOST TOO EASY.


ELSEWHEN...
WHERE... OR WHEN ARE WE?
OBOY! DINOSAURS! I LOVE DINOSAURS! THEY'RE BIG AND TOUGH AND STRONG AND--
--SOME CAN BE REAL MEAN-- EVERYTHING A GUY SHOULD BE!
YEEEHAHA!
LISTEN, BABE--SINCE THIS IS LIKE THE GARDEN OF EDEN, HOWS-- ABOUT WE MAKE LIKE ADAM AND EVE, HUH?
YOU MEAN ADAM STRANGE?
HEY, CREEP! COME BACK HERE!
SUCK MY EXHAUST TUBE, GREEN GOOP!
WHAM!
I'D RATHER JAM IT UP YOUR ... EAR, FISH-KISSER!


A BACK SHOT, EH? THAT WAS A LOW, SNEAKY, BUTTHEAD KIND OF BLOW!
I LIKED IT! THE UNIVERSE CAN WAIT! YOU DIE FIRST!
STOP THIS!
LOOK, WE'RE ALL WARRIORS AND WE'RE HERE FOR A PURPOSE! WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH THAT FIRST AND THEN SETTLE PRIVATE SCORES!
SEZ WHO?!
HEY, WHAT'S THAT RUMBLING?
I HAVE THE WORD--IT IS BATTLE!
BOOM!
ORION!

AW, JEEZ! I KNOW THAT GUY FROM THE JUSTICE LEAGUE. HE'S ONE OF THESE DAMN NEW GODS. HE'S GONNA TAKE THE FUN OUT OF EVERYTHING!
LOOK! SOMEONE ELSE HAS ARRIVED! THERE, JUST ABOVE THE VALLEY FLOOR.
"CHEEZ, IS THAT A FOKKER TRIPLANE?!
SQUAWWWK
"THEY MADE A MOVIE ABOUT THAT GUY! HIS NAME'S HANS VON HAMMER! THEY CALLED HIM ENEMY ACE! WHY'D WAVERIDER BRING HIM? THE PTERODACTYL'S GONNA EAT HIM ALIVE!"
"NO! LOOK! HE'S BRINGING HIS AIRPLANE AROUND!
RATTATATAT
SO. EVEN IN MY DREAMS, THERE IS NO ESCAPING THE KILLER SKIES.
AWAKE OR ASLEEP, I MUST STILL BE A KILLING MACHINE. I MUST LIVE THE NIGHTMARE OF WAR.

GREAT. A WOODEN KITE WITH GUNS. THAT'S GONNA BE REAL HANDY IN A FIGHT.
DON'T GET CAUGHT IN MY BACKBLAST, BUDDY!
THERE.
" THERE IS THE ENEMY. "
ATTACK!
HELLO, DAHLINGS! DON'T TELL ME -- YOU WANT MY AUTOGRAPH. MERCEDES RITTER WAS YOUR FAVORITE B-MOVIE QUEEN, YES? NO? FORGOTTEN ME, HAVE YOU?
YOU WON'T FORGET THIS!
" YOU'LL NEVER FORGET CALABRI, THE HAMMER-VOICE, SO LONG AS YOU LIVE. ANOTHER TWO OR THREE SECONDS, AT LEAST! "
FEETAL'S GIZ!

WORLD WAR 2. THE EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS. NO MAN'S LAND.
WATCH IT, EASY! WE'VE GOT COMPANY COMING! WILD MAN, BULLDOZER, LITTLE SURE SHOT-- FAN OUT! WAIT FOR MY SIGNAL!
HERE THEY COME... WAIT...
BACK OFF, EASY! IT'S NOT THE KRAUTS!
SEE, SARGE? I TOLD YOU POOCH WOULD LINK US UP WITH EASY COMPANY!
WUFF!
YEAH, YEAH, YOU TOLD ME. HEY, ROCK! HOW'S THE SECOND BEST SARGEANT IN THE WHOLE BLAMED ARMY?
AFTER THE TWO TOP-KICKS COMPARE NOTES...
SOUNDS LIKE WE BOTH GOT OUR ASSIGNMENT FROM THE SAME MAJOR.
YEAH. HEY, WAS IT MY IMAGINATION OR DID THE GUY GLOW?
HEY, SARGE! TELL ME THAT'S MY IMAGINATION!

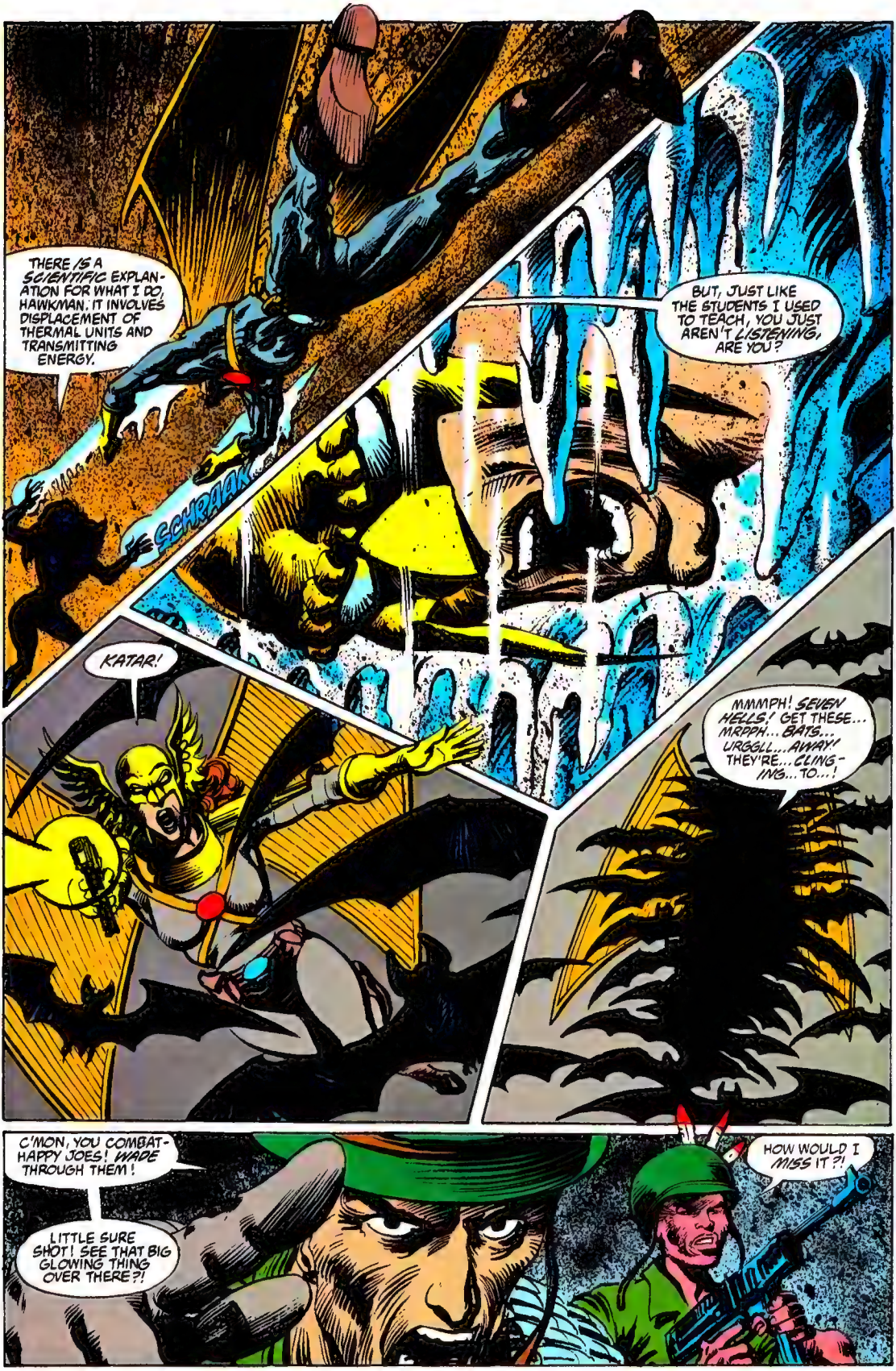
HEY, PLANE DIVING IN, ROCK!
BUT WHOSE IS IT, WILD-MAN?!
BRAAAZAAAOOOM
NOPE. THAT IS OUR OBJECTIVE, LITTLE SURE SHOT!
CRIPES! LOOKS LIKE SOMETHIN' THEM "MYSTERY MEN" BACK STATESIDE WOULD DO BETTER TACKLIN'!
BRATTATATATATATATATA
NOT GOING TO HAPPEN. SO LONG AS HITLER'S GOT THAT "SPEAR OF DESTINY" THINGUS! THIS WAR BELONGS TO THE COMBAT-HAPPY JOES!
ALL RIGHT, YOU MISERABLE DOGFACES! THE NAVAJO ACE JUST PAVED A ROAD FOR YOU! HOW MUCH EASIER YOU WANT IT, EASY?
JOHNNY CLOUD TO GROUND TEAM!
PUSH ON AHEAD. I'LL CLEAR A PATH.
UP AND AT 'EM!

BDOWW
BUDDABUDDABUDDABUDDA
BDOW
BDOW
BRAZAAAOW
WHO CARES?! HIT 'EM UNTIL THEY STAY HIT!
HEY SARGE! THESE GUYS ALIVE OR DEAD OR WHAT?!
BRATATTATTA
NOW I AM BLAQUOKAR, THE MIND SPIDER, AND MY POWER HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER!
AH! I'VE ENGNARED YOUR MIND! NOW I'LL CONTROL YOUR BODY--AND YOUR PLANE!
SO SURE OF YOURSELF, PILOT! UNASSAILABLE! BAH! WHEN I WAS HAROLD FOREMAN, I BROKE MEN LIKE YOU FOR FUN! THEY, TOO, MISCALCULATED! THOUGHT BECAUSE I WAS OLD, BECAUSE I WAS CRIPPLED, I DIDN'T MATTER!
MY POWER ALWAYS LAY IN MY MIND! THAT'S HOW I MADE MY FORTUNE!

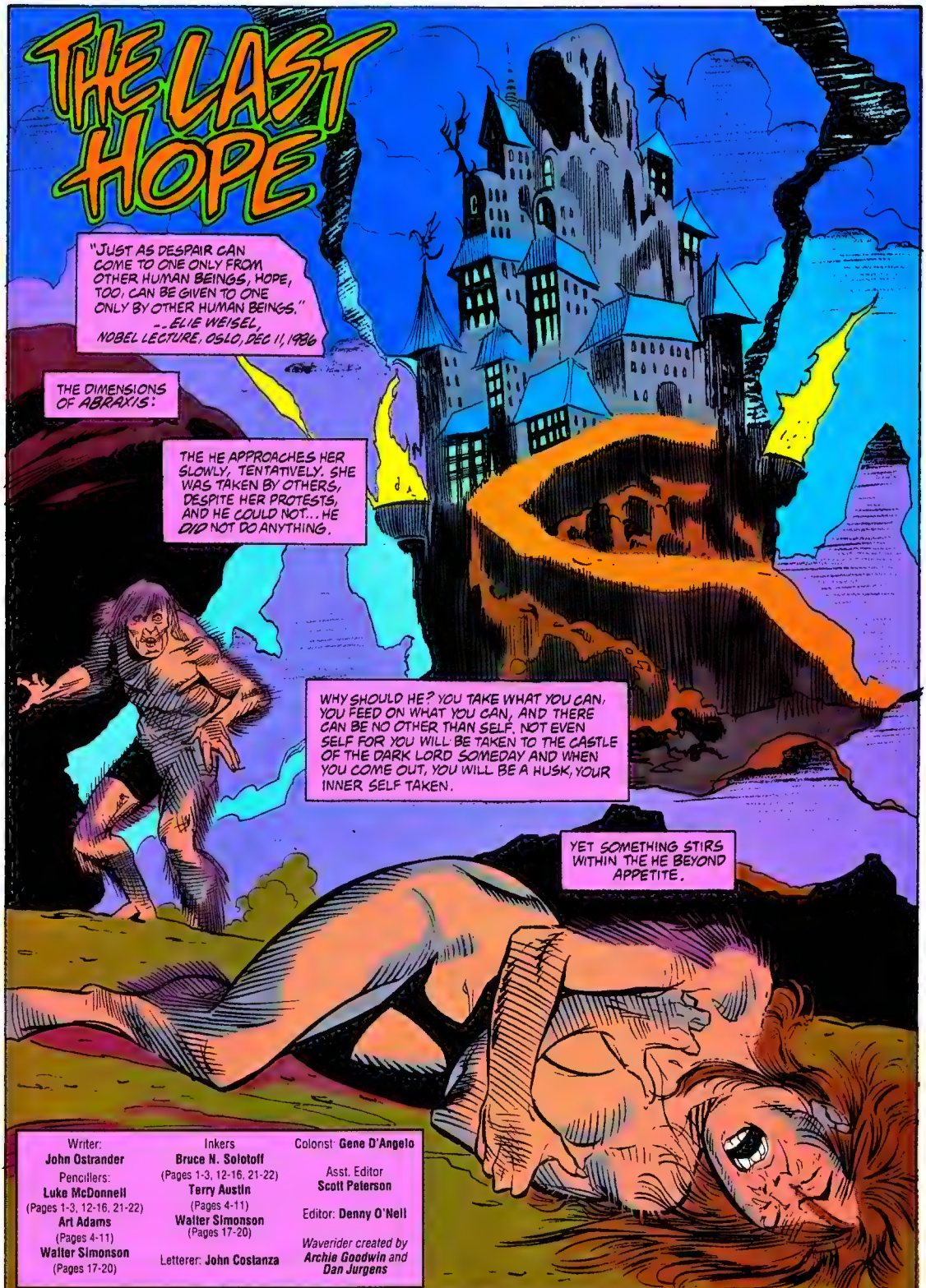
HEY, YOU THINK THAT'S SOMETHING, MOOK? THAT AIN'T NOTHING! YOU WANNA SEE SOMETHIN'? MICKEY PALMIERO, AKA FETH SUCCOL, THE RAT BASTARD HIS BAD SELF--I'M GONNA SHOW YOU SOMETHING!
LESSEE. WHAT TO MAKE MYSELF INTO? WOLVES IS GOOD. YEAH! WOLVES!
SNARRRLL
GROWWWL
GRRRRR
YOU, BOY! TAKE THE KISS OF KISHTIMAAK!
SCHRRAAAK
POOR KATE HURLEY. SO AFRAID OF DYING SHE MADE A DEAL WITH THE DEVIL. NOW SHE KILLS FOR THE DEVIL!
(GURK) CAN'T PULL... THIS CREEP OFF! LOOKS LIKE... THIS IS THE END... FOR EASY!

POUR IT ON, SHAYERA! WE HAVE TO BUY THEM SOME TIME!
CHOOM
CHOOM
WHO DARES--?!
JAM IT, KATAR! I'M HITTING THEM BUT THEY DON'T STAY DOWN! I HATE IT WHEN THAT HAPPENS!
WHO THE HELL ARE THEY, ROCK?
LOOK LIKE HAWKMAN AND HAWKWOMAN BACK HOME, ONLY SUITED UP FOR WAR! NOW SHUT UP AND HELP ME GET ICE CREAM SOLDIER OUT OF THE ICE BEFORE HE CATCHES A COLD!
FREE! MY MIND'S MY OWN! THOSE TWO BROKE THAT CHARACTER'S CONCENTRATION!

FATHER OF THE SKIES! I'LL MAKE HIM PAY!
BATATATATATATATATAA
BATATATATATATATAM
BRATATATATATATATOWN
AWRIGHT, GUNNER! THE RAT BASTARD'S ON THE RUN! LET'S KEEP HIM THAT WAY!
IN YER DREAMS, CHUMPS! I PULLED MYSELF BACK TOGETHER 'CAUSE WE GOT ANOTHER PROBLEM TO DEAL WITH!
AND FETH SUDOL CAN BEST DEAL WITH IT IN THE FORM OF BATS!


THERE IS A SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION FOR WHAT I DO, HAWKMAN. IT INVOLVES DISPLACEMENT OF THERMAL UNITS AND TRANSMITTING ENERGY.
SCHRAAK
BUT, JUST LIKE THE STUDENTS I USED TO TEACH, YOU JUST AREN'T LISTENING, ARE YOU?
KATAR!
MMMPH! SEVEN HELLS! GET THESE... MRPPH... BATS... URGGLL... AWAY! THEY'RE... CLING-ING... TO...!
C'MON, YOU COMBAT-HAPPY JOES! WADE THROUGH THEM!
LITTLE SURE SHOT! SEE THAT BIG GLOWING THING OVER THERE?!
HOW WOULD I MISS IT?!

THEN FIND ITS WEAK SPOT AND SHOOT IT!
GOT IT, SARGE!
WELL DONE, MY DAEMEN! YOUR WORK IS COMPLETED!
ABRAXIS IS COME!
OH... HELL...!
NEXT-- WALTER SIMONSON RETURNS AS ART ADAMS JOINS US AND WE LEARN JUST WHAT DID HAPPEN TO THE LEGENDARY JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA! THINGS GET WAAAY COOL!


THE LAST HOPE
"JUST AS DESPAIR CAN COME TO ONE ONLY FROM OTHER HUMAN BEINGS, HOPE, TOO, CAN BE GIVEN TO ONE ONLY BY OTHER HUMAN BEINGS."
--ELIE WEISEL, NOBEL LECTURE, OSLO, DEC 11, 1986
THE DIMENSIONS OF ABRAXIS:
THE HE APPROACHES HER SLOWLY, TENTATIVELY. SHE WAS TAKEN BY OTHERS, DESPITE HER PROTESTS, AND HE COULD NOT... HE DID NOT DO ANYTHING.
WHY SHOULD HE? YOU TAKE WHAT YOU CAN, YOU FEED ON WHAT YOU CAN, AND THERE CAN BE NO OTHER THAN SELF. NOT EVEN SELF FOR YOU WILL BE TAKEN TO THE CASTLE OF THE DARK LORD SOMEDAY AND WHEN YOU COME OUT, YOU WILL BE A HUSK, YOUR INNER SELF TAKEN.
YET SOMETHING STIRS WITHIN THE HE BEYOND APPETITE.

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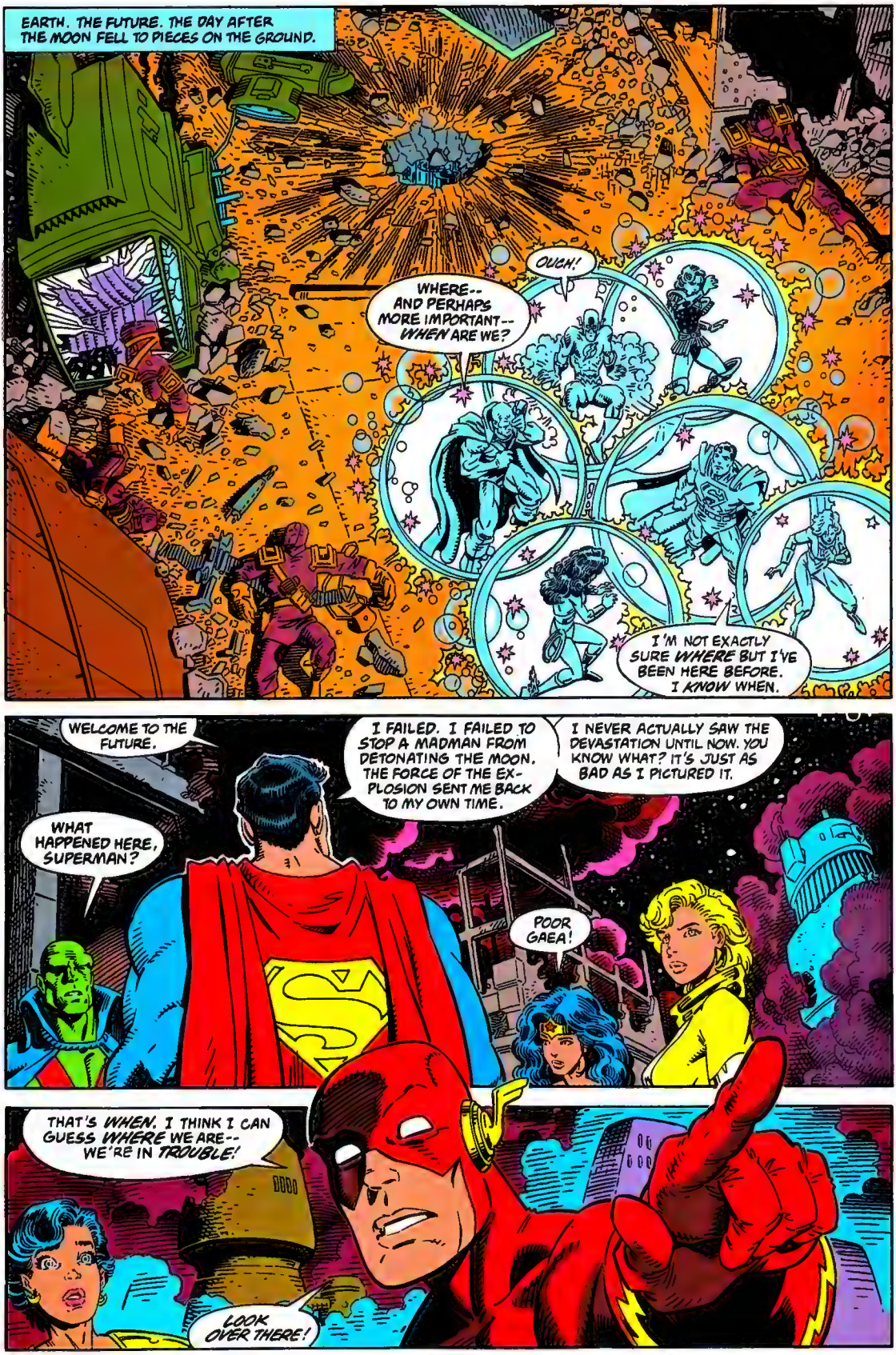
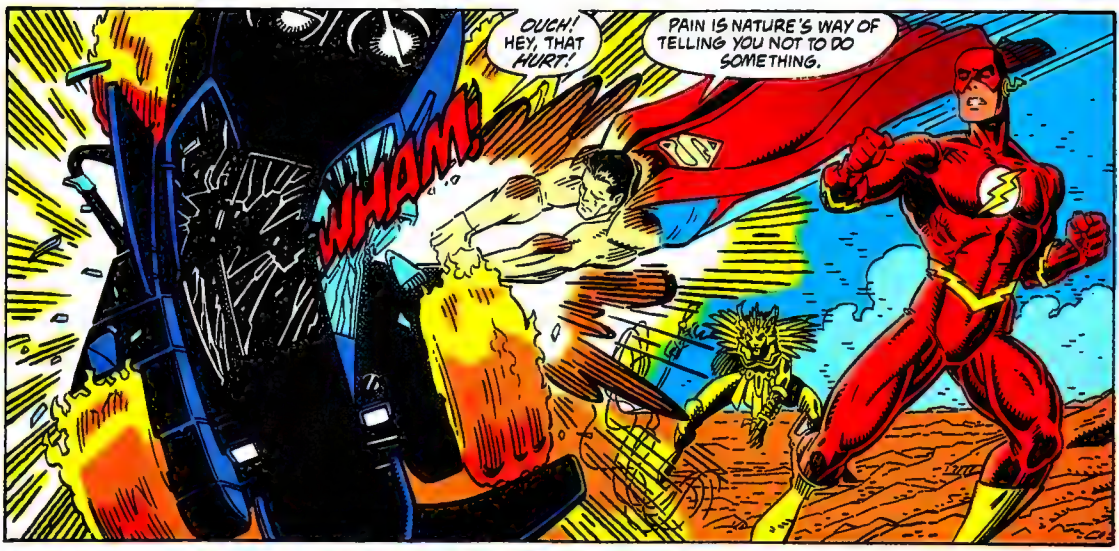
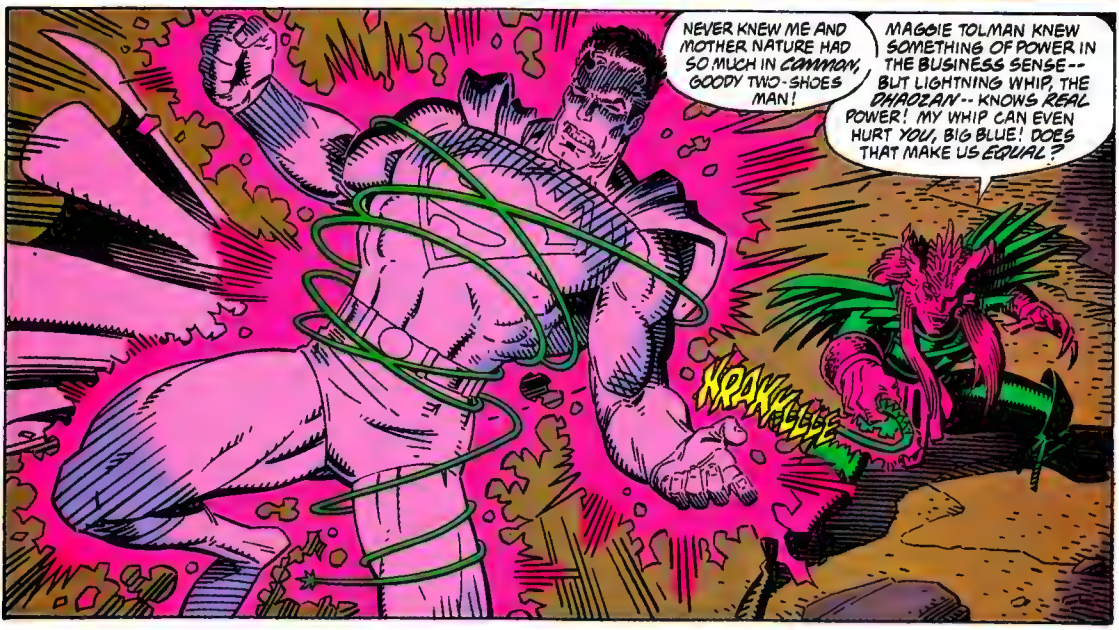
WE WOULD CALL IT CONCERN OR PITY. HE WAS THE RUNT OF HIS LITTER; HE KNOWS WHAT IT IS LIKE TO SUFFER AT THE HANDS OF THOSE WHO ARE LARGER.
THIS SYMPATHY OFTEN MAKES HIM SUSPECT FOR IT IS AN UNCOMMON TRAIT HERE IN THE DOMAIN OF THE DARK LORD.
THE DARK LORD IS RUTHLESS IN STAMPING IT OUT WHENEVER AND HOWEVER IT MANIFESTS ITSELF, ALONG WITH ANY OTHER TRAIT TOWARDS DECENCY OR TENDENCY TOWARDS A CIVILIZATION.
HE FEEDS UPON THEIR SOULS. TO ABAXIS, THESE PEOPLE -- THE RACE FROM WHICH HE HIMSELF SPRANG --ARE NOTHING MORE THAN CATTLE. CATTLE EXIST TO BREED AND TO FEED THEIR LORD. THAT IS THEIR FATE. THAT IS ALL.
NOT ALLOWING THEM ANY OTHER LIFE, HE BELIEVES THEM INCAPABLE OF ANY OTHER LIFE.
WHAT HAS HE, THEIR DARK LORD, TO FEAR FROM THEM?
UNASSAILABLE, INVINCIBLE, ABRAXIS LOOKED FOR NEW CONQUESTS. HE HAS FOUND A NEW DIMENSION, RIPE FOR PLUCKING.
OUR DIMENSION.

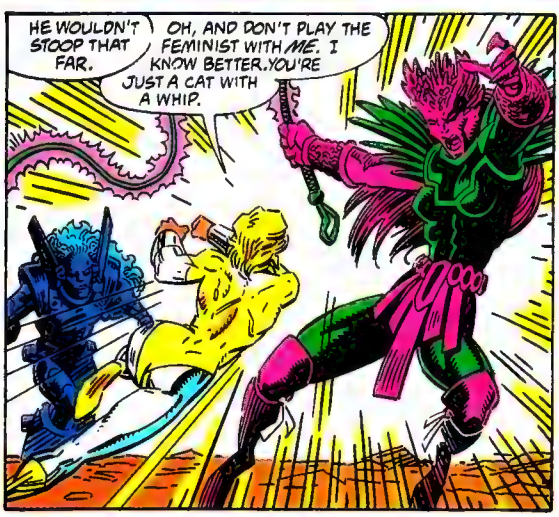
THIS IS NOT GOING WELL.
ABRAXIS HAS ALREADY ENTERED TWO OF THE SIMULACRUMS HIS DAEMEN CONSTRUCTED AND I'M NOT SURE THE OTHER TEAMS I'VE DISPATCHED CAN STOP HIM IN THE OTHER TWO TIME ERAS!
MUCH OF THIS IS MY FAULT. I CAME BACK IN TIME TO PREVENT MONARCH FROM EVER BEING CREATED. I DIDN'T SUSPECT HE LET ME COME BACK SO HE COULD FOLLOW AND ENSURE HIS CREATION.
THAT CREATED A RIFT WHICH ALLOWED ABRAXIS ENTRY INTO THIS DIMENSION FROM HIS OWN! I'VE GATHERED TEAMS OF HEROES FROM DIFFERENT PLACES ALONG THE TIMELINES TO OPPOSE HIM BUT THEY DON'T SEEM ABLE TO STOP HIM!
WAVERIDER.
SPECTRE?! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE FIGHTING ABRAXIS...!
THAT BATTLE IS FUTILE UNLESS OTHERS CAN BE SENT TO ENGAGE HIM ON HIS OWN HOME GROUND. THEN HIS ATTENTION AND POWER WILL BE SPLIT AND WE MAY HAVE A CHANCE.
I CAN'T! TO REMOVE ANY MORE HEROES FROM THEIR OWN ERAS WOULD THREATEN TO UNRAVEL THE FABRIC OF TIME ITSELF!
I KNOW OF SOME WHO STAND OUTSIDE NORMAL SPACE AND TIME. WITH YOUR POWERS WE MAY BE ABLE TO FREE THEM LONG ENOUGH TO DEFEAT ABRAXIS. IT IS RISKY BUT WE DICE WITH FATE AS IT IS.
ENTER AND I WILL TAKE YOU TO THEM.
LEAD ON!

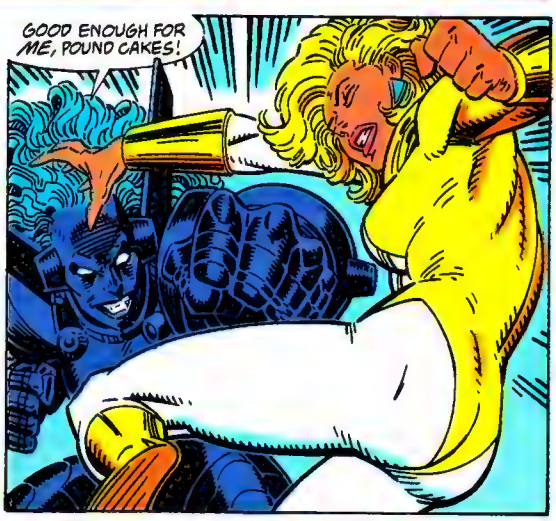

EARTH. THE FUTURE. THE DAY AFTER THE MOON FELL TO PIECES ON THE GROUND.
OUCH!
WHERE-- AND PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT-- WHEN ARE WE?
I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE WHERE BUT I'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE. I KNOW WHEN.
WELCOME TO THE FUTURE.
I FAILED. I FAILED TO STOP A MADMAN FROM DETONATING THE MOON. THE FORCE OF THE EXPLOSION SENT ME BACK TO MY OWN TIME.
I NEVER ACTUALLY SAW THE DEVASTATION UNTIL NOW. YOU KNOW WHAT? IT'S JUST AS BAD AS I PICTURED IT.
WHAT HAPPENED HERE, SUPERMAN?
POOR GAEA!
THAT'S WHEN. I THINK I CAN GUESS WHERE WE ARE-- WE'RE IN TROUBLE!
LOOK OVER THERE!

THERE ARE THE HUSKS WAVERIDER TOLD US ABOUT. THE THREE IN FRONT WILL BE THE DAEMEN.
AND I'LL BET WHAT THEY'RE GROWING IN THE THINGEE IS GOING TO BE ABRAXIS.
"THINGEE"?
OH, LOOK, KIDS! SOO-PER HEEE-ROES. THE CLEAN-CUT UPSTANDING KIND. GODS, DON'T THEY MAKE YOU WANT TO VOMIT? I MEAN, LOOK AT THEM!
I'M AWARE OF THEM, DHAOZAN.
NOW, DON'T GET ALL TIGHT-LIPPED, INZTUK. DHAOZAN DIDN'T MEAN NOTHIN' BY THAT.
OF COURSE I DIDN'T. FOR BEING SUCH A DEAR, ARQUOL, YOU GET FIRST PICK.
VUM! VRUM!
HEY, FLASHIE-KINS! I HEAR YOU LIKE YOUR WOMEN FAST AND HOT! IS THIS FAST AND HOT ENOUGH FOR YOU?
VRUUM
YOU'RE DEFINITELY NOT MY TYPE!
WHEN I WAS HUMAN, WHEN I WAS JUST JANE SPERLING, I CERTAINLY WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ALL THE BOYS I KNEW WERE MORE INTERESTED IN THEIR CARS THAN ME!
SCREEECH
BUT I'M ARQUOL NOW, BABY-- I'M "RUNNING DEATH".
AND I'M HELL ON WHEELS!

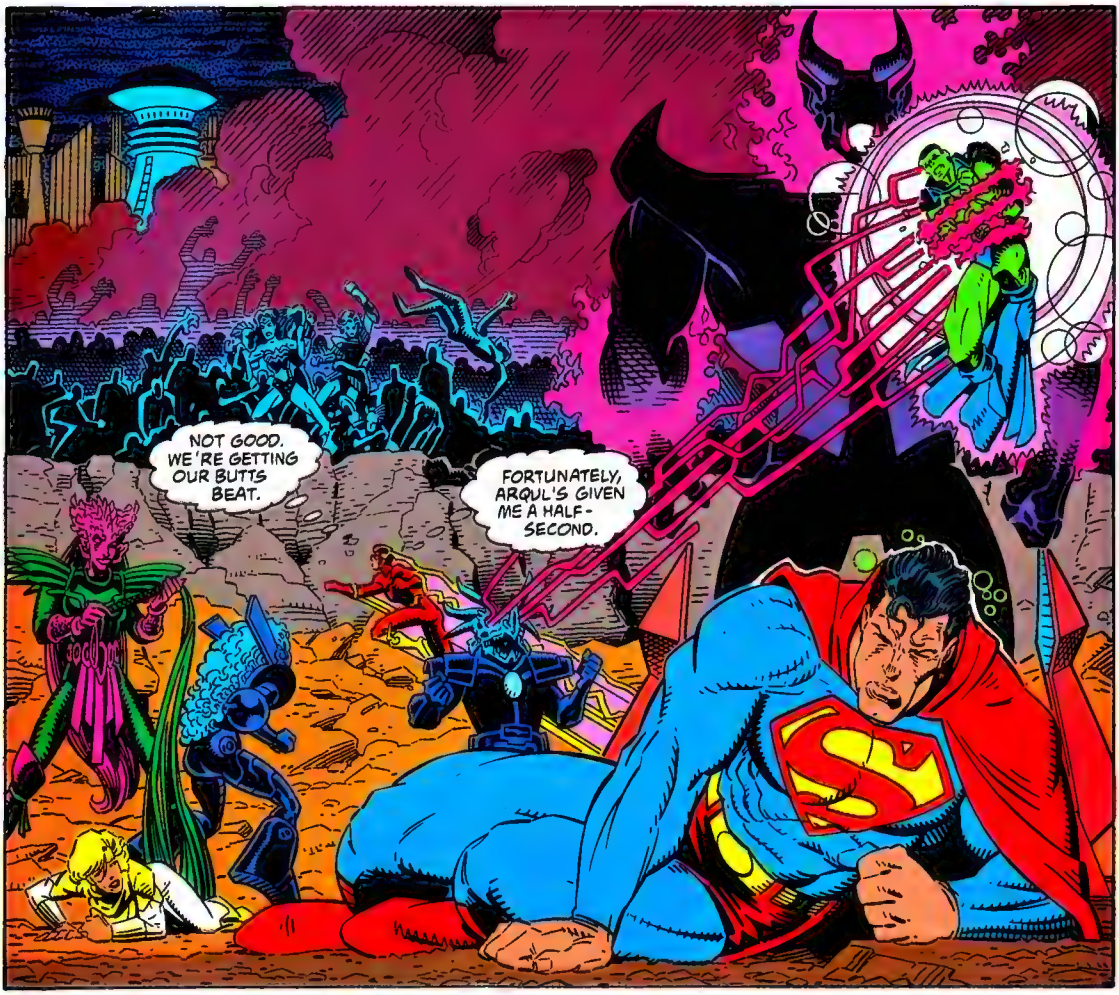

WHAM!
OUCH! HEY, THAT HURT!
PAIN IS NATURE'S WAY OF TELLING YOU NOT TO DO SOMETHING.

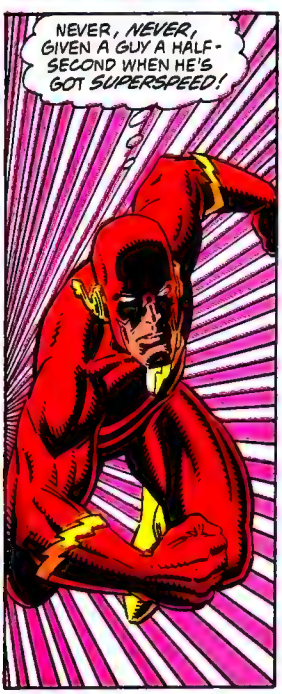

NEVER KNEW ME AND MOTHER NATURE HAD SO MUCH IN COMMON, GOODY TWO-SHOES MAN!
MAGGIE TOLMAN KNEW SOMETHING OF POWER IN THE BUSINESS SENSE-- BUT LIGHTNING WHIP, THE DHAOZAN-- KNOWS REAL POWER! MY WHIP CAN EVEN HURT YOU, BIG BLUE! DOES THAT MAKE US EQUAL?
KRAK-KLLLE

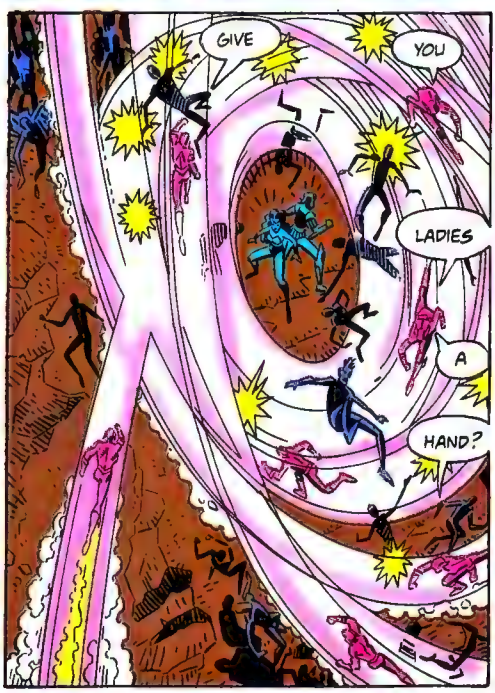

HE WOULDN'T STOOP THAT FAR.
OH, AND DON'T PLAY THE FEMINIST WITH ME. I KNOW BETTER. YOU'RE JUST A CAT WITH A WHIP.

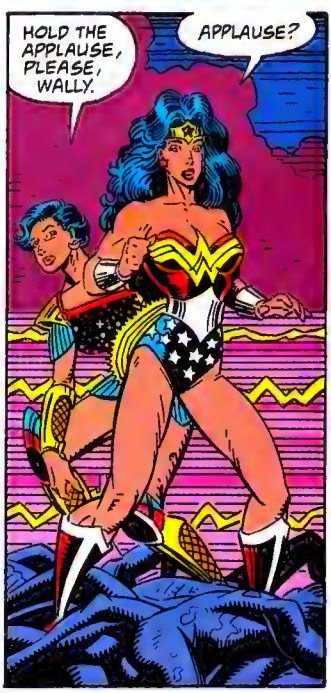

GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME, POUND CAKES!

THERE'S SO MANY OF THESE HUSKS, DIANA!
TOO MANY, TROIA!
I KNOW THEY'RE NO LONGER ALIVE-- BUT I JUST CAN'T RIP THEM APART!
FIGHT ON, DONNA-- OR WE SHALL NO LONGER LIVE AND, WITH US, GAEA WILL DIE!
ENOUGH OF THIS. IF WE DESTROY THE SIMULACRUM, THE BATTLE WILL BE OVER.
AND ALL THAT STANDS IN YOUR WAY IS INZTUK. PERHAPS, MANHUNTER FROM MARS, THAT WOULD NOT APPEAR ENOUGH?
APPEARANCES DECEIVE! NONE KNOW BETTER THAN DENNY CAPUTO! A MAN WHO SEEMED BETTER THAN I WON MY ELECTORAL SEAT FROM ME! HE WAS SIGHTED, I WAS BLIND-- SO BLIND!
TZAP!
EMPTY EYES WAS ALL I WAS! EMPTY EYES-- INZTUK-- IS ALL I NEED BE TO DEAL WITH THE LIKES OF YOU!
SCHRAAK
THOSE BEAMS... LIKE KNIVES... PINNING ME!


NOT GOOD. WE'RE GETTING OUR BUTTS BEAT.
FORTUNATELY, ARQUL'S GIVEN ME A HALF-SECOND.


NEVER, NEVER, GIVEN A GUY A HALF-SECOND WHEN HE'S GOT SUPERSPEED!


GIVE
YOU
LADIES
A
HAND?


APPLAUSE?
HOLD THE APPLAUSE, PLEASE, WALLY.

TROIA'S JUST STEALING MY GAG BEFORE I CAN USE IT, PRINCESS.
WALLY!
VRUUM
LOOK...
OUT!
FWAM
SEE TO OUR FALLEN FRIEND, TROIA. I SHALL DEAL WITH THIS ONE!
GIVE IT A GOOD TRY.
SCREEECH
WHO CAN I HIT?
TAG. YOU'RE IT!
WRAK
THANK YOU, KARA. MY TURN, I BELIEVE.

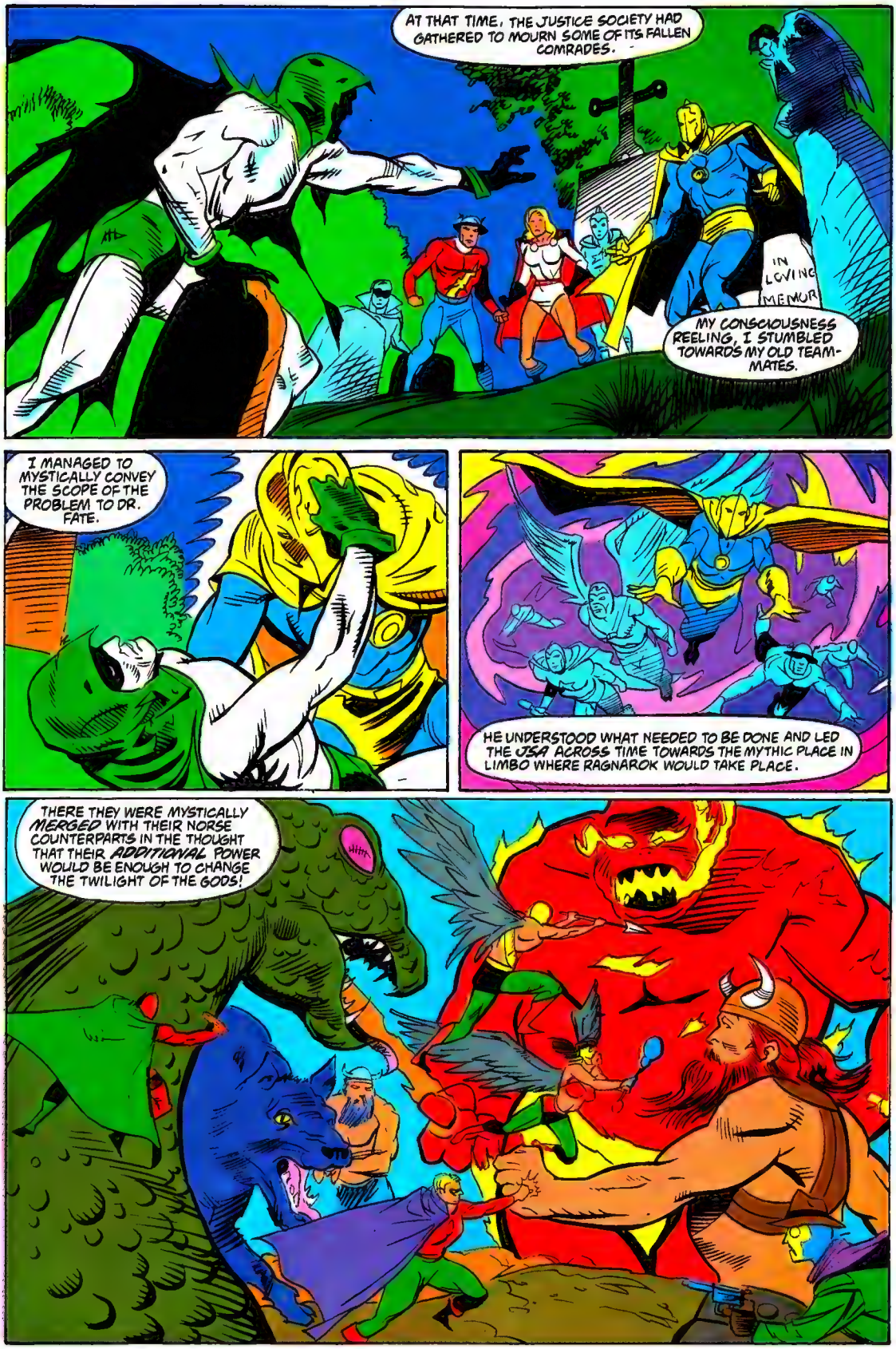
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED TO FIGHT!
WE FIGHT AS A TEAM. KAL-EL?
HERE, DIANA. LET ME DISPOSE OF THIS FOR YOU.
AWWWK!
YOU AND THE SIMULACRUM, ARQUOL. TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED.
DON'T COUNT YOUR TRIUMPHS BEFORE THEY'RE HATCHED, SUPERDUPER!
LET'S SEE WHAT IT TAKES TO MELT A MAN O' STEEL. HELLFIRE MISSILES LOCKED ON.
FWOOSH

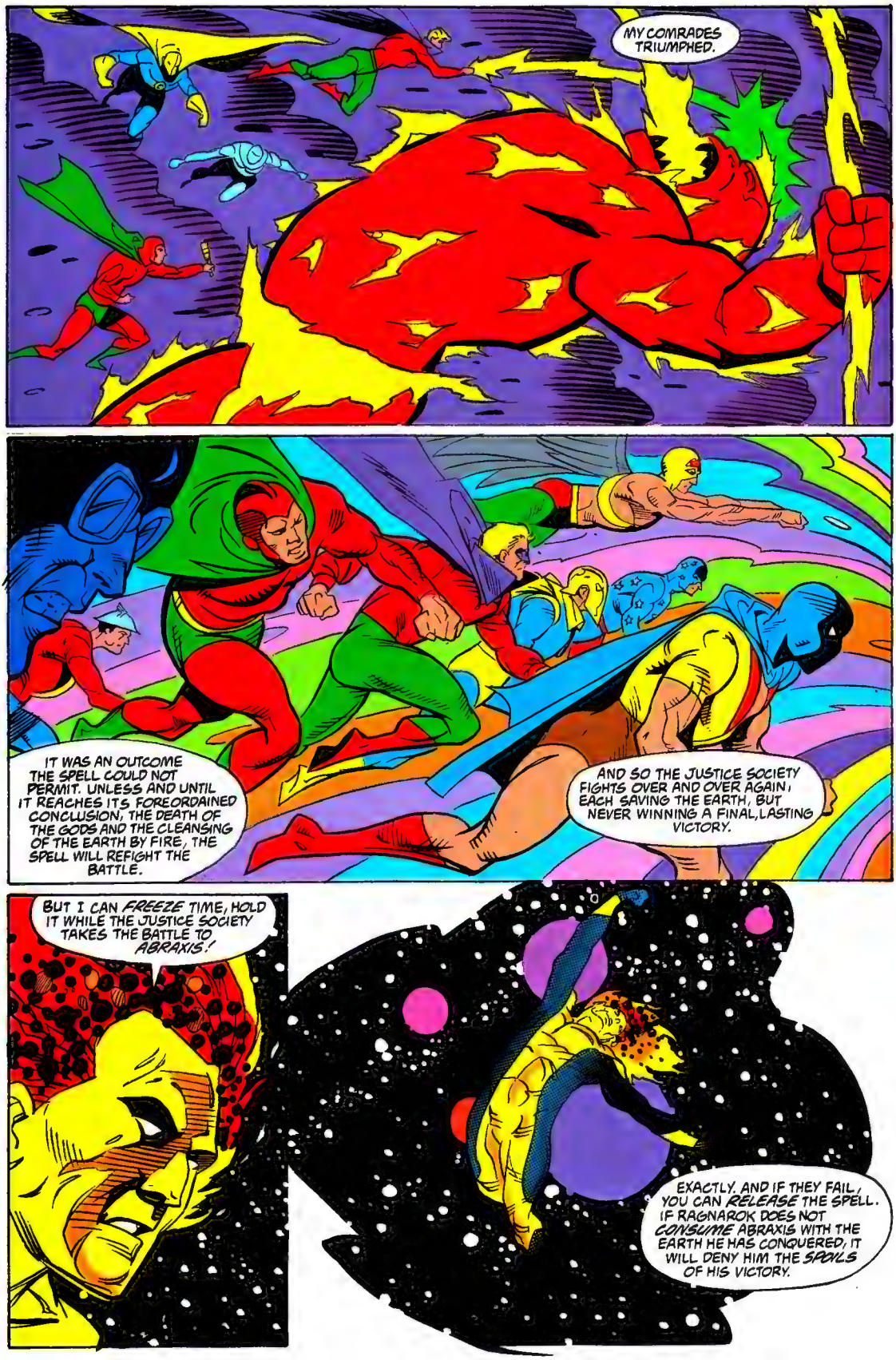
YOUR FRIEND FEELING BETTER, HMM?
WE'LL FIX THAT!
UH, WALLY...?
DAMN!
YOU'RE STILL HAPPILY MARRIED, RIGHT, DONNA?
KRAK
YES, WALLY.
DARN!
KARA! WATCH OUT FOR HIS...
EYE BEAMS. THAT'S WHAT YOU WERE GOING TO SAY, RIGHT?
WELL DONE, MY DAEMEN.
ABRAXIS IS COME.
EXCUSE ME, BUT WASN'T THAT WHAT WE WERE SENT HERE TO PREVENT?
YES.

MEANWHILE, VERY ELSEWHERE...
SPECTRE? WHO ARE THESE HEROES? WHERE ARE WE GOING?
BEFORE THIS CURRENT AGE OF HEROES, ALMOST FIFTY YEARS AGO, THERE WERE THE FIRST, THE PRECURSORS TO THE HEROES OF TODAY.
I WAS ONE OF THEM.
THE GREATEST OF THESE WERE GATHERED TOGETHER IN THE LEGENDARY JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA. ALTHOUGH THE MEMBERSHIP CHANGED, THESE ARE THE HEROES WHO FIGHT THE JSA'S LAST AND GREATEST BATTLE.
HAWKMAN AND HAWKGIRL, WILDCAT, THE FLASH, SANDMAN AND SANDY, GREEN LANTERN, STARMAN, DR. MIDNIGHT, JOHNNY THUNDER AND HIS THUNDERBOLT, HOURMAN, AND THE ATOM!
THEY WERE THE MODELS FOR THE LATER GENERATION OF HEROES, SOME OF WHOM EVEN ADOPTED THE SAME NAME OUT OF RESPECT FOR THOSE WHO BLAZED THE WAY.
YOU SAID THEY FIGHT THEIR LAST AND GREATEST BATTLE? A CURRENT BATTLE?

A BATTLE THAT IS ONGOING AND EVERLASTING.
DURING OUR SECOND WORLD WAR, ADOLF HITLER GAINED CONTROL OF A POWERFUL MYSTIC TALISMAN CALLED THE SPEAR OF DESTINY.
ANY METAHUMAN OR MYSTICALLY POWERED HERO, MYSELF INCLUDED, WHO VENTURED TOO CLOSE, FELL UNDER ITS POWER AND THE CONTROL OF THE FÜHRER. OTHERWISE THE WAR WOULD'VE ENDED IN DAYS.
SO IT FELL TO THE NORMAL HUMAN BEINGS--IN AND OUT OF COSTUME AND UNIFORM--TO LEAD THE WAY AND OVERTHROW THE MADMAN. SLOWLY, THE TIDE TURNED AGAINST NAZI GERMANY.
HITLER SCORCHED THE EARTH AGAINST THE INVADING ARMIES, BOTH RUSSIAN AND AMERICAN. EVEN THAT WASN'T ENOUGH. IN THE CLOSING DAYS OF THE WAR, HE TRIED TO SCORCH THE EARTH ITSELF.
USING THE SPEAR OF DESTINY, HE TRIED TO LINK THE FALL OF GERMANY WITH RAGNAROK--THE FALL OF NORSE GODS, SO THAT THE WHOLE EARTH WOULD BE "CLEANSED" IN FIRE.
HE HADN'T THE SORCEROUS POWER OR TRAINING TO ACCOMPLISH HIS INTENTIONS.
BUT HIS HATE WAS GREAT ENOUGH TO IMPRINT HIS DESIRE ON THE SPEAR, WAITING FOR A SUFFICIENT INFLUX OF MAGIC POWER TO COMPLETE THE SPELL.

WHAT BECAME OF THIS SPEAR?
IT WAS FOUND IN THE BUNKER BY RUSSIAN SOLDIERS WHO BROUGHT IT BACK TO MOSCOW AS A SPOIL OF WAR. FOR FORTY YEARS, IT WAS STORED IN A WAREHOUSE, A WEAPON OF INCREDIBLE MYSTIC POWER HELD BY AN ATHEISTIC GOVERNMENT.
BUT RUMORS OF ITS EXISTENCE PERSISTED UNTIL ANOTHER RUTHLESS MEGALOMANIAC, KOBRA, TRACKED IT DOWN AND HAD IT STOLEN.
I SWIFTLY BECAME AWARE OF WHAT HAPPENED AND MOVED TO STOP KOBRA BEFORE HE BECAME FULLY VERSED IN INVOKING THE POWER OF THE SPEAR.
BEING SO USED TO THE SPEAR AS A MYSTIC WEAPON, I FORGOT ITS MORE PRIMITIVE USES.
THE MOMENT IT TOUCHED MY FORM, THE SPEAR FED UPON MY MANA, OR MYSTIC ENERGY, AND THE SPELL THAT HITLER CAST FORTY YEARS BACK BEGAN TO MANIFEST!


AT THAT TIME, THE JUSTICE SOCIETY HAD GATHERED TO MOURN SOME OF ITS FALLEN COMRADES.
IN LOVING MEMOR
MY CONSCIOUSNESS REELING, I STUMBLED TOWARDS MY OLD TEAM-MATES.
I MANAGED TO MYSTICALLY CONVEY THE SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM TO DR. FATE.
HE UNDERSTOOD WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE AND LED THE JSA ACROSS TIME TOWARDS THE MYTHIC PLACE IN LIMBO WHERE RAGNAROK WOULD TAKE PLACE.
THERE THEY WERE MYSTICALLY MERGED WITH THEIR NORSE COUNTERPARTS IN THE THOUGHT THAT THEIR ADDITIONAL POWER WOULD BE ENOUGH TO CHANGE THE TWILIGHT OF THE GODS!


MY COMRADES TRIUMPHED.
IT WAS AN OUTCOME THE SPELL COULD NOT PERMIT. UNLESS AND UNTIL IT REACHES ITS FOREORDAINED CONCLUSION, THE DEATH OF THE GODS AND THE CLEANSING OF THE EARTH BY FIRE, THE SPELL WILL REFIGHT THE BATTLE.
AND SO THE JUSTICE SOCIETY FIGHTS OVER AND OVER AGAIN, EACH SAVING THE EARTH, BUT NEVER WINNING A FINAL, LASTING VICTORY.
BUT I CAN *FREEZE* TIME, HOLD IT WHILE THE JUSTICE SOCIETY TAKES THE BATTLE TO *ABRAXIS!*
EXACTLY. AND IF THEY FAIL, YOU CAN *RELEASE* THE SPELL. IF RAGNAROK DOES NOT *CONSUME* ABRAXIS WITH THE EARTH HE HAS CONQUERED, IT WILL DENY HIM THE *SPOILS* OF HIS VICTORY.

MEANWHILE, BACK IN THE AGE OF DINOSAURS...
MY DREAM OF DEATH GROWS EVER MORE STRANGE. THE ONE CREATURE SCREAMS AND ALL THOSE WHO FIGHT WITH ME ARE OVERTURNED.
VRAAOOW
MUST PULL... MY FOKKER... AWAY... IF I AM TO SURVIVE THESE KILLER SKIES!
EWUMP
WHAT? YOU GEEKS FIGURE YOU CAN POUND ON TH' MAIN MAN CAUSE HE GOT TOSSED OFF HIS CYCLE? THAT'LL BE THE DAY!
HOPE THERE'S ENOUGH OF YA TA GET ME WARMED UP! I GOT A MAD ON NOW!
SOMEHOW, I KNOW THESE OTHERS TO BE MY ALLIES! AND THEY NEED A MOMENT TO GATHER THEMSELVES TOGETHER!
WHO AM I TO QUESTION THE LOGIC OF DREAMS-- EVEN ONE AS MAD AS THIS?
RATATATAT
BRAAAOOLAOOW

WE HAVE A CLEAR PATH!
LADY, GUY GARDNER ALWAYS HAS A CLEAR PATH! FIRST DIBS ON FIREPANTS HERE!
THAT'S THE WAY OF YOUR TYPE. BELITTLE ANOTHER. AS BILL CLEMSON, I HAD TO PUT UP WITH THAT KIND OF GARBAGE ALL MY LIFE! MADE SOMETHING OF MYSELF TOO UNTIL A WHITE CREEP LIKE YOU TOOK IT ALL AWAY, JUST BECAUSE HE COULD!
BUT I AM NOW HUROMON! I AM THE GROUND-BREAKER! AND HERE I HAVE TO TAKE NOTHING!
NOTHING!
WELL, THAT'S THE LAST OF THAT! NOT ENOUGH TO BOTHER WAKING UP FOR!
YOU PRETTY TOUGH WITH THEM, MAN. YOU WANNA TRY ME?!
AND WHO'RE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE AND WHY SHOULD I BOTHER?
I WAS TONY ALCAZANDO, MAN. WORKED FOR THE CIA IN CUBA, MY HOME, BUT THEY SAID I WAS TOO CRAZY AND THEY CUT ME LOOSE. NOW, I AM TZINGAAS, I AM THE WHIRLING RAZOR, AND I AM GONNA CUT YOU UP, MAN!

UHN! FIRST BLOOD TO YOU, BOZO. LAST BLOOD WILL BELONG TO TH' MAIN MAN!
BORN TO KILL!
AH, YOU SEEK CALABRI'S ATTENTION?
WHOOMP WHOOMP WHOOMP
YOU HAVE IT.
SHREEEEEK
SHREEEEEK
ALL THESE ACTIONS ARE DELAYING TACTICS. THAT LARGE FIGURE--MY MIND SAYS SIMULACRUM --THAT MUST BE OUR TRUE OBJECTIVE! AND THAT MUST BE DESTROYED!

YOU WILL FALL, CREATURE, TO THE GUNS OF THE HAMMER OF HELL -- HANS VON HAMMER!
BRATATATA
BRATATATA
BRAAAAAAAAW
AT LAST. IT IS COMPLETED.
ABRAXIS HAS COME! NOW I CAN UNITE ALL OF SPACE AND TIME IN THIS CONTINUUM!
"ABRAXIS IS TRIUMPHANT!"
FWADOOM!

FINALLY, IN LIMBO...
NOW, WAVERIDER! WE'VE ARRIVED AT THE VERY BEGINNING OF THE CYCLE!
UHNNN! THE FLOW... OF TIME IN THIS... PLACE IS VERY... INSISTENT, SPECTRE!
I WON'T BE ABLE TO HOLD THIS FOR LONG!
THIS IS PRETTY SPOOKY, GUYS! THEY'RE ALL FROZEN LIKE BIG STATUES BUT I CAN'T EVEN TOUCH THEM!
LOOK! THERE'S THE SPECTRE! WHO'S THAT WITH HIM?
HIS NAME IS WAVERIDER AND HE HAS FROZEN THIS MOMENT BETWEEN NANO-SECONDS. THE BEINGS HERE CANNOT AFFECT OR BE AFFECTED BY ANYTHING, SAVE FOR YOU.
WHY? WHAT'S GOING ON, SPEC?

ONCE AGAIN, THE FATE OF A UNIVERSE DEPENDS ON THE JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA.
AFTER THE PROBLEM FACING THE UNIVERSE HAS BEEN EXPLAINED...
THE ONLY HOPE LEFT IS WITH YOU. I HAVE TO RETURN TO MY OWN BATTLE AFTER I GET YOU TO ABRAXIS' DIMENSION. ARE YOU WILLING TO GO?
YOU NEED US, WE GO. I DON'T SEE THE NEED FOR MUCH DEBATE ON THE MATTER.
BESIDES, IT'LL BE NICE JUST TO GET A NEW SPARRING PARTNER, RIGHT, WES?
HUSH, YOUNGSTER. THIS IS SERIOUS.
THEN COME. THE BATTLE AWAITS.
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CAN HOLD BACK THE FLOW OF TIME IN THIS PLACE!
HURRY, JSA! HURRY!
NEXT -- THE LEGENDARY JSA IN ACTION AGAIN IN A FINAL SAVAGE BATTLE WITH ABRAXIS HIMSELF! "A GATHERING OF HEROES" WITH GUEST ARTIST DICK GIORDANO, PLUS ART ADAMS, TOM MANDRAKE, LUKE MCDONNELL, MIKE NETLER, AND WALT SIMONSON AS WELL! BE HERE!

NOW, JUSTICE SOCIETY--STRIKE! FOR JUSTICE, FOR THE SAKE AND SURVIVAL OF ALL HUMANITY, BRING DOWN ABRAXIS!
JUST REMEMBER, GANG--IF YOU DIE HERE YOU STAY DEAD!
BUT WE'VE GOT SO MUCH OF THEIR ENERGY IN US, I DON'T NEED ONE OF MY MIRACLO PILLS!
YOU KNOW, IT'S ALMOST GOING TO BE A RELIEF TO BE FIGHTING ANYTHING OTHER THAN THOSE SO-CALLED NORSE GODS!

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The GATHERING of HEROES

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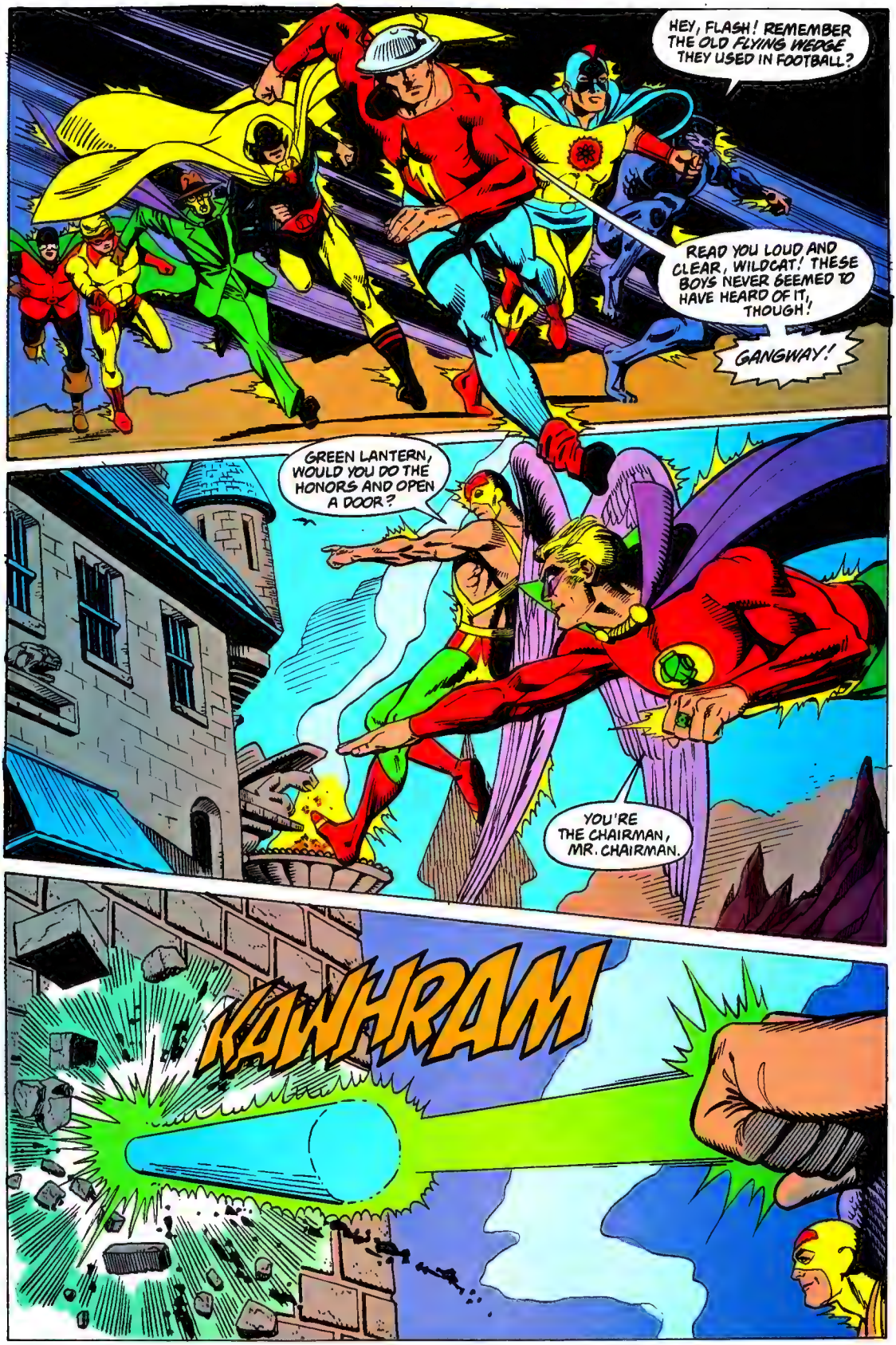
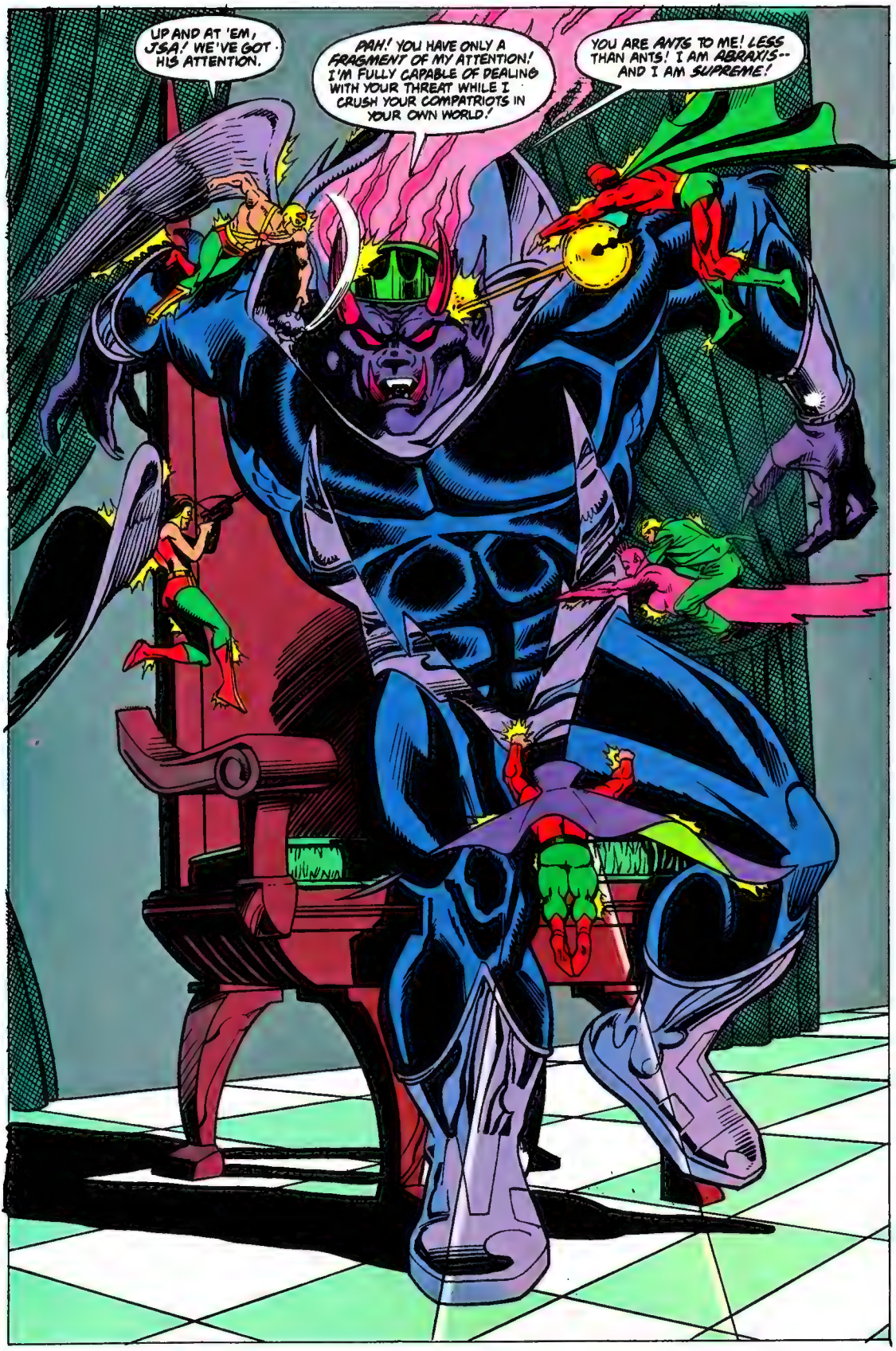
ITT
THAT FIGURES TO BE THE CASTLE ABRAXIS THAT WAVERIDER TOLD US ABOUT.
FLASH, YOU AND THE OTHERS ON FOOT MAKE SURE THOSE HUSKS THAT WAVERIDER WARNED AGAINST STAY OFF OUR BACKS! THE REST OF US WILL INVADE THE CASTLE AND ENGAGE ABRAXIS!
LINK UP AS SOON AS YOU CAN! I HAVE A FEELING WE'RE GOING TO NEED EVERY WARM BODY WE CAN GET!
HE HAS COME, ACCOMPANIED BY THE SHE HE HAS BEFRIENDED, DRAWN BY THE GLOW THAT APPEARED JUST OVER THE HILLS.
BEINGS! STRANGE, WONDERFUL BEINGS! THE VERY SIGHT OF THEM IGNITES SOMETHING IN HIS SOUL FOR WHICH HE HAS NO NAME.
WE WOULD CALL IT HOPE.
Here comes trouble, Hawkman!
UP AND AT 'EM, JUSTICE SOCIETY! AND REMEMBER, WE HAVEN'T MUCH TIME!

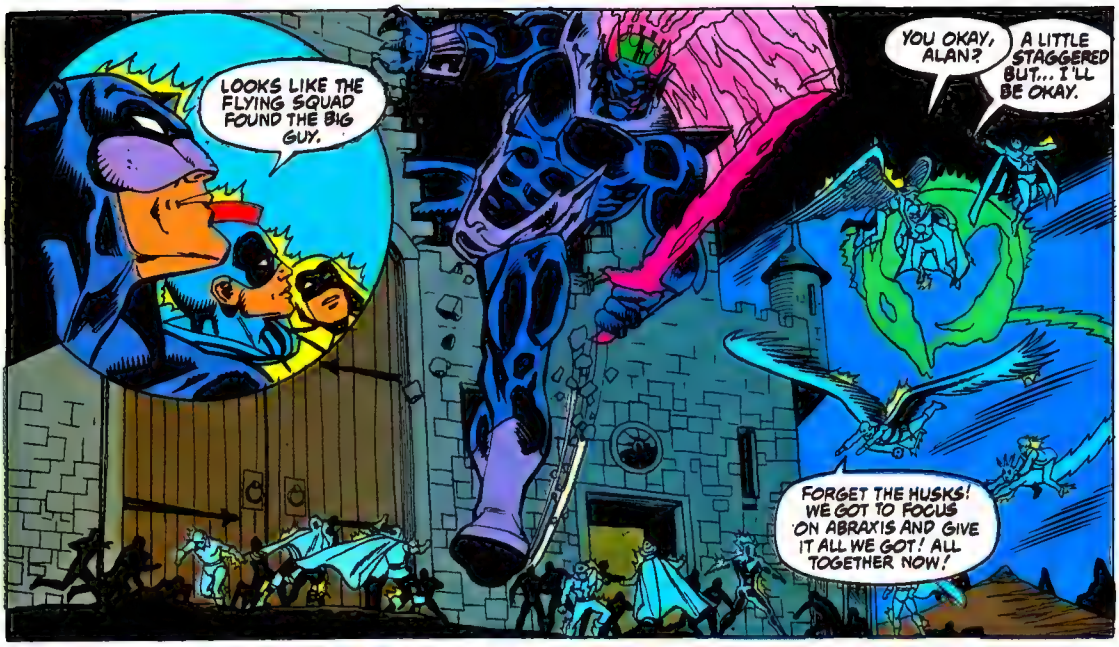

HEY, FLASH! REMEMBER THE OLD FLYING WEDGE THEY USED IN FOOTBALL?
READ YOU LOUD AND CLEAR, WILDCAT! THESE BOYS NEVER SEEMED TO HAVE HEARD OF IT, THOUGH!
GANGWAY!
GREEN LANTERN, WOULD YOU DO THE HONORS AND OPEN A DOOR?
YOU'RE THE CHAIRMAN, MR. CHAIRMAN.
KAWHRAM

WHEW! WHAT A JOINT! SAY, YOU THINK WE'LL BE ABLE TO FIND THIS ABRAXIS CHARACTER?
HE'S IN THE MAIN CHAMBER AHEAD, MASTER JOHNNY. I'LL TAKE YOU RIGHT TO HIM.
WOW! SANDMAN AND SANDY, SIDE BY SIDE, CLOBBERING THE BAD GUYS! FEELS LIKE OLD TIMES, DON'T IT, PAPPY?
That it does, youngster! But I have a feeling our gas or wire-poon guns won't do a thing to these mugs, so we'd better stick to old-fashioned fists!
SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD PRESCRIPTION, SANDMAN!
HAW! YOU'RE THE DOCTOR, DR. MIDNIGHT, BUT LET ME GET A SECOND OPINION!
HEY, WILDCAT! YOU USED TO BE THE PROFESSIONAL BOXER! HOW'S OUR FORM?
DON'T KID YERSELVES! THESE MUGS'RE JUST A BUNCH OF PALOOKAS, SEE? THIS ISN'T THE MAIN BOUT, RIGHT, ATOM?
I AGREE WITH TED. HEY! ANYBODY SEE ANY SIGN OF THE FLASH?

JUST A GUESS, BUT I'M WILLING TO BET THAT'S THE SPEEDSTER OVER THERE! GO GET 'EM, JAY!
WHOA!
IS THAT HIM? IS THAT THIS ABRAXIS GUY? IS HE ASLEEP OR WHAT?
HIS MIND IS IN OUR DIMENSION, STARMAN, CAUSING ALL KINDS OF HAVOC. THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO ATTACK HIS PHYSICAL FORM HERE!
DRAWN BY THE GLOW OF LIGHTS AND THE SOUNDS OF BATTLE, MORE OF THE DENIZENS OF THIS WORLD--THE ONES THAT ABRAXIS DESIGNATED HIS "CATTLE"-- CREEP FORWARD TO SEE THE WONDROUS SIGHT--
HEROES -- CHAMPIONS -- FIGHTING AGAINST THE HORDES OF ABRAXIS AND WINNING.
I DON'T KNOW, CARTER. I NEVER LIKED THE IDEA OF HITTING A GUY WHILE HIS BACK WAS TURNED.
QUITE ALL RIGHT, HUMAN.
I'VE TURNED MY FACE TOWARDS YOU.
DO YOUR BEST. I WILL LAUGH.


UP AND AT 'EM, JSA! WE'VE GOT HIS ATTENTION.
PAH! YOU HAVE ONLY A FRAGMENT OF MY ATTENTION! I'M FULLY CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH YOUR THREAT WHILE I CRUSH YOUR COMPATRIOTS IN YOUR OWN WORLD!
YOU ARE ANTS TO ME! LESS THAN ANTS! I AM ABRAXIS-- AND I AM SUPREME!

HE'S NOT JUST WHISTLING DIXIE, CARTER! HE'S SHRUGGING OFF EVERYTHING I'VE GOT!
NOW--HOW SHALL I DISPOSE OF YOU? DECISIONS, DECISIONS.
IN THIS MANNER, I THINK.
ALAN! GET EVERYBODY INTO A PROTECTIVE BUBBLE--NOW!


LOOKS LIKE THE FLYING SQUAD FOUND THE BIG GUY.
YOU OKAY, ALAN?
A LITTLE STAGGERED BUT... I'LL BE OKAY.
FORGET THE HUSKS! WE GOT TO FOCUS ON ABRAXIS AND GIVE IT ALL WE GOT! ALL TOGETHER NOW!

I'LL GET THINGS STARTED! HEY, BIG BOY! HERE'S ROCKS IN YOUR EYE!

IMPUDENT FLEA!
YOU KNOW, YOU BIG GUYS ALWAYS CALL US THAT! COULD WE WORK ON SOME NEW DIALOGUE?

WHATEVER DOUBTS, WHATEVER FEARS THEY MAY HAVE, THESE HEROES MASK THEM BEHIND THEIR BRAVADO AND BANTER. NO MATTER HOW ILLUSORY VICTORY MAY SEEM, THEY CARRY THE FIGHT BACK TO THEIR FOE.
THE HE WATCHES. THE DEAD ONES APPROACH! THE BRIGHT ONES DON'T SEE OR, IF THEY SEE, THEY DO NOT HEED!
DOUBTS AND FEAR TEAR AT THE HE. BUT THE FEAR IS NOT FOR HIMSELF--IT IS FOR THE BRIGHT ONES WHO STRUGGLE WITH THE DARK LORD.
A SPARK IGNITES IN THE HE, A RAGE AGAINST THE DARK, A RAGE AGAINST THE *INJUSTICE* OF IT ALL, A SPARK ENGENDERED BY THE EXAMPLE OF THE BRIGHT ONES.

A SPARK THAT, UNEXPECTEDLY, BLAZES INTO AN INFERNO.
BUT NOW THE FEAR RETURNS, THE FEAR FOR HIMSELF. HE FEARS HE IS ABOUT TO DIE.
IF THE HE WERE TRULY ALONE, THAT WOULD BE TRUE. BUT THE HE IS NOT.
SAW YOUR ASSIST, WATCHING OUR BACKS, FRIEND. COULDN'T STAND BY AND LET THEM KILL YOU.
DON'T KNOW IF YOU UNDERSTAND MY WORDS BUT-- HERE'S MY HAND.
THE WORDS ARE FOREIGN...
...BUT THE GESTURE IS FAMILIAR.

AND PIVOTAL!
CARTER! ARE YOU OKAY?!
WHEW! YEAH! JUST A LITTLE WINDED! WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED?!
HOLY--!
OF COURSE! IT MAKES A SORT OF SENSE! ABRAXIS GETS HIS ENERGY FROM STEALING YOUR SOULS BUT HE WAS ORIGINALLY ONE OF YOU!
YOU ALL HAVE THE ABILITY TO STORE THE KIND OF POWER THAT WE GOT FROM BEING MERGED WITH THE NORSE GODS!
HEY, JSA! I KNOW HOW TO TOPPLE ABRAXIS!
FIND A NATIVE AND SHARE THE POWER!

AND NOW THEY COME, THEY WHOM ABRAXIS CALLED CATTLE, THOSE WHO WERE ALLOWED NO LANGUAGE, NO CIVILIZATION, NOTHING TO NOURISH THE SOULS ON WHICH THEIR DARK LORD WISHED TO FEED.
THE BRIGHT SHINING ONES LAY THEIR HANDS UPON THE "CATTLE" AND THEY RECEIVE POWER.
AND THEY TURN THAT POWER UPON THEIR DARK LORD AND THEY HEAR HIM SCREAM AND THE CATTLE LAUGH.

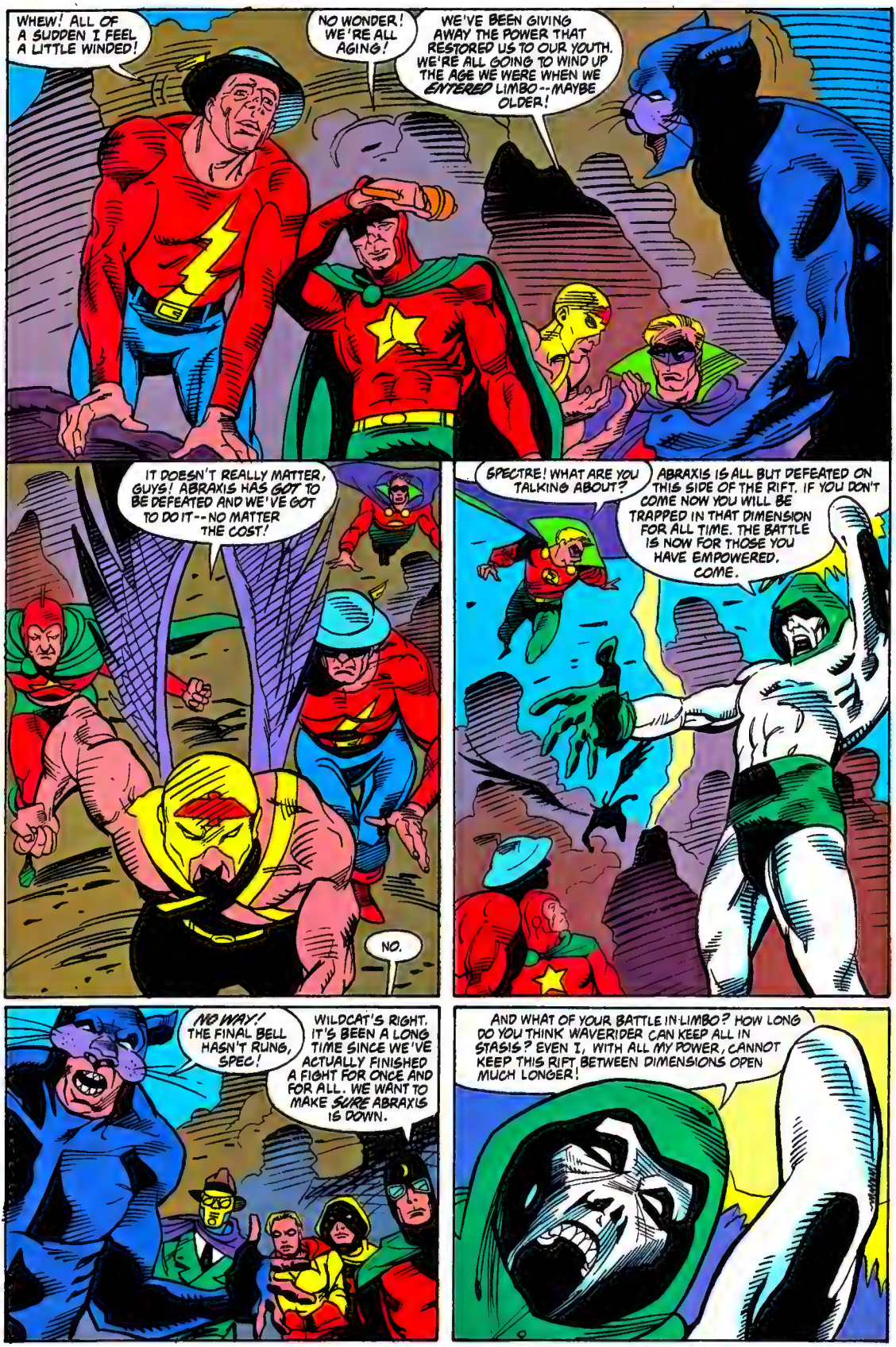
AGAINST HIS OWN PEOPLE ALONE, ABRAXIS WOULD TRIUMPH. AGAINST ANY ONE SET OF HEROES, ABRAXIS MUST INEVITABLY TRIUMPH.

BUT ABRAXIS HAS *OVERREACHED* HIMSELF. HE HAS *DIVIDED* HIS MIND BETWEEN TWO DIMENSIONS AND FIGHTS BATTLES ON FIVE DIFFERENT FRONTS.

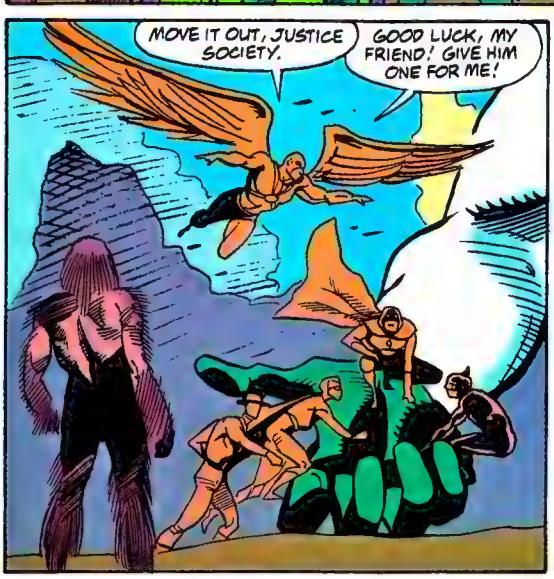
IN EACH, HE FIGHTS AGAINST BEINGS WITH STRANGE AND WONDROUS POWERS, BEINGS WHO WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED, WHO ARE DETERMINED TO OPPOSE HIM WITH THEIR VERY LIVES IF NECESSARY.

THEY WOULD INFINITELY PREFER, HOWEVER, THAT ABRAXIS PAY FOR THIS BATTLE WITH HIS LIFE.

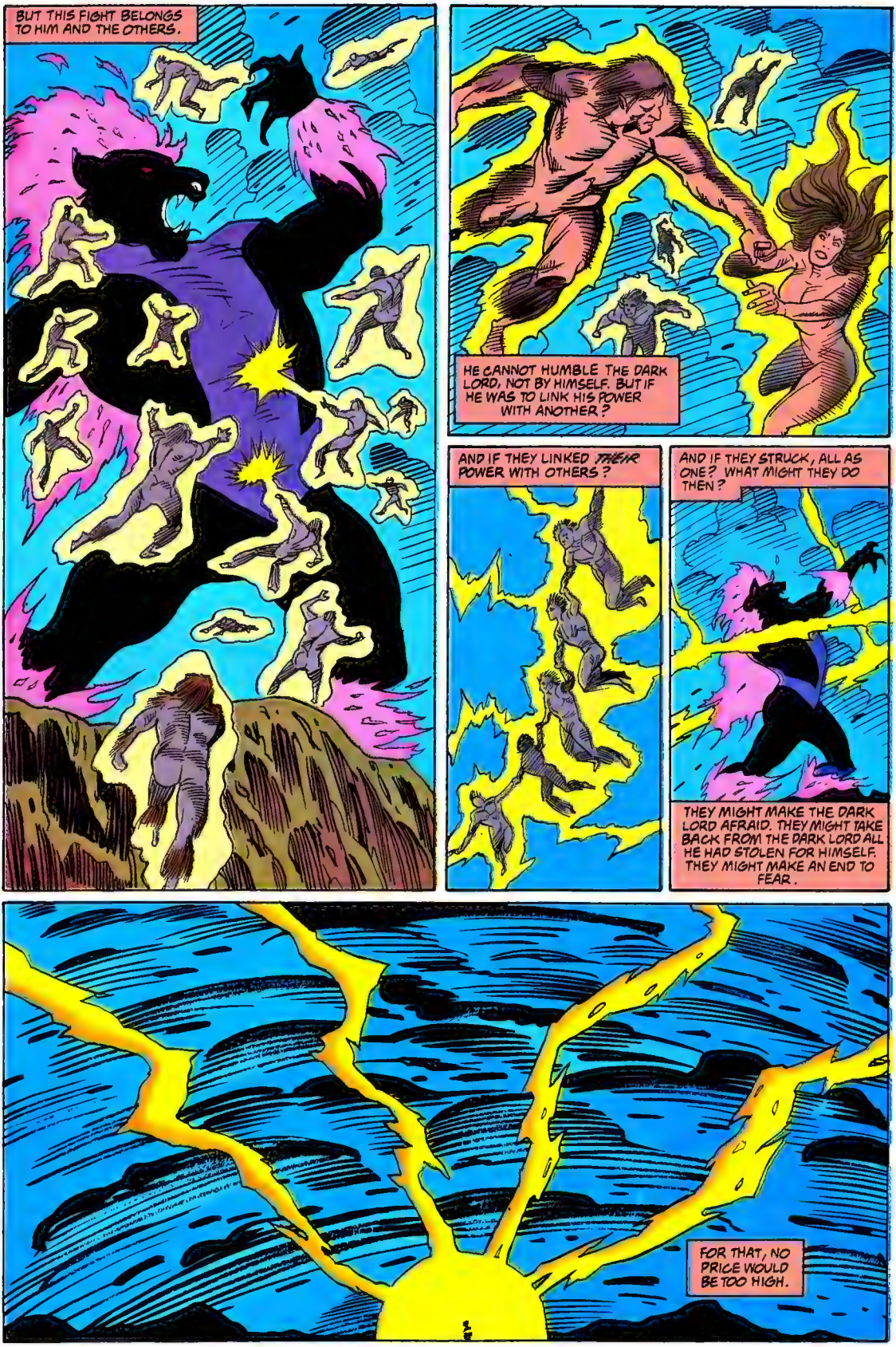
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A MILLENNIUM, ABRAXIS KNOWS FEAR.
GRAHHHHRRRR!

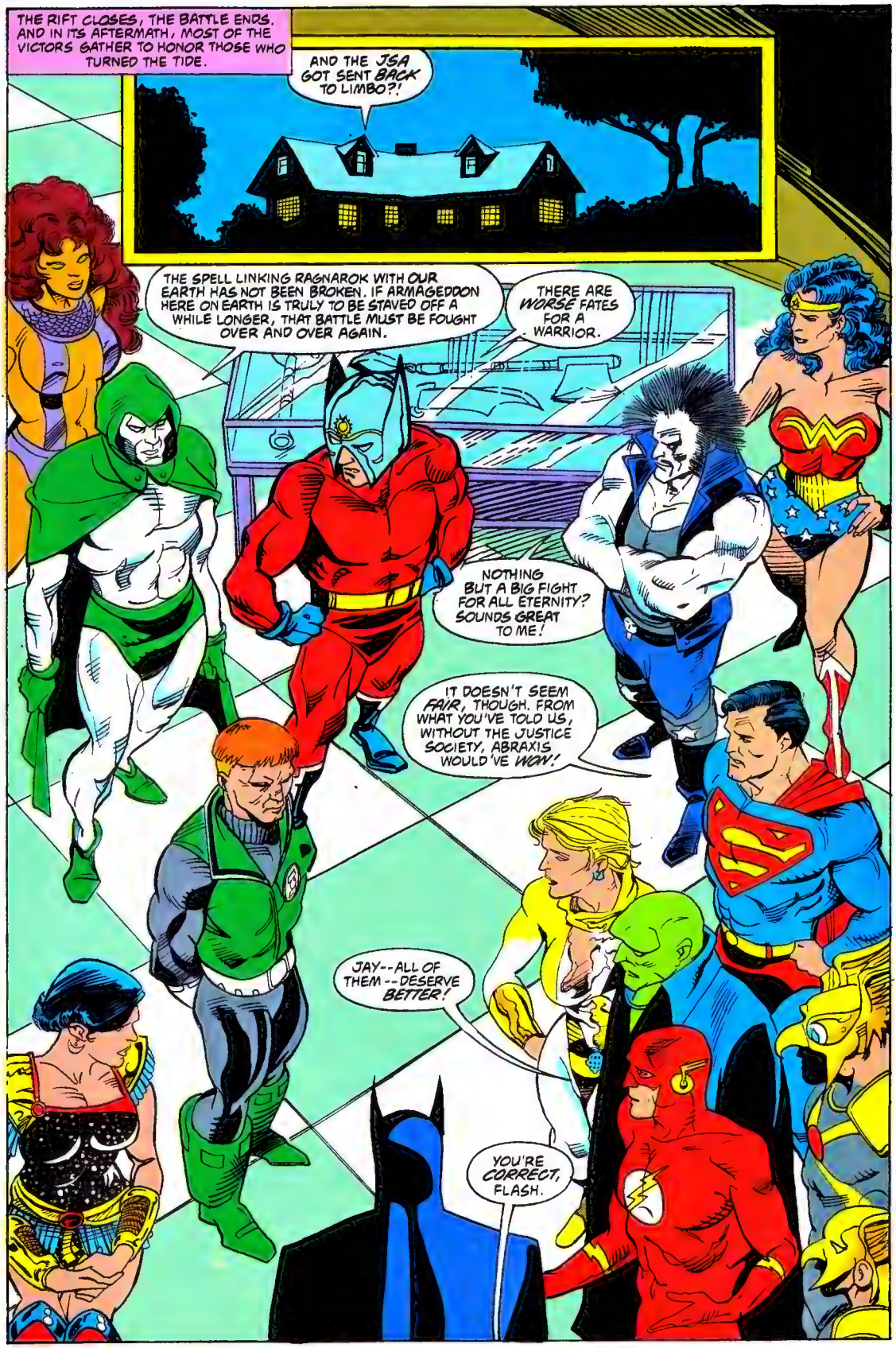

WHEW! ALL OF A SUDDEN I FEEL A LITTLE WINDED!
NO WONDER! WE'RE ALL AGING!
WE'VE BEEN GIVING AWAY THE POWER THAT RESTORED US TO OUR YOUTH. WE'RE ALL GOING TO WIND UP THE AGE WE WERE WHEN WE ENTERED LIMBO--MAYBE OLDER!
IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER, GUYS! ABRAXIS HAS GOT TO BE DEFEATED AND WE'VE GOT TO DO IT--NO MATTER THE COST!
NO.
SPECTRE! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
ABRAXIS IS ALL BUT DEFEATED ON THIS SIDE OF THE RIFT. IF YOU DON'T COME NOW YOU WILL BE TRAPPED IN THAT DIMENSION FOR ALL TIME. THE BATTLE IS NOW FOR THOSE YOU HAVE EMPOWERED. COME.
NO WAY! THE FINAL BELL HASN'T RUNG, SPEC!
WILDCAT'S RIGHT. IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE ACTUALLY FINISHED A FIGHT FOR ONCE AND FOR ALL. WE WANT TO MAKE SURE ABRAXIS IS DOWN.
AND WHAT OF YOUR BATTLE IN LIMBO? HOW LONG DO YOU THINK WAVERIDER CAN KEEP ALL IN STASIS? EVEN I, WITH ALL MY POWER, CANNOT KEEP THIS RIFT BETWEEN DIMENSIONS OPEN MUCH LONGER!

HE'S RIGHT. WE'VE GOT TO GO BACK. IF WAVERIDER FOLDS, OUR EARTH DIES.
IS IT ANY BETTER IF ABRAXIS WINS? WE CAN'T JUST CUT THESE PEOPLE LOOSE HERE! I DON'T CARE IF THEY DON'T LOOK HUMAN--THEY NEED OUR HELP!
HEY, LOOK! IT'S THE KID YOU FIRST CHARGED UP, CARTER!
YES, MY FRIEND. WE'RE BEING CALLED HOME. BUT WE DON'T WISH TO ABANDON YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE...!
HEY, I'M GETTING A HINT, CARTER!
I'M GETTING THE MESSAGE, ALAN. HE'S TELLING US IT'S OKAY. WE'VE GIVEN THEM THE POWER; NOW WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF THEIR WAY AND TRUST THEM TO TAKE CARE OF ABRAXIS THEMSELVES.

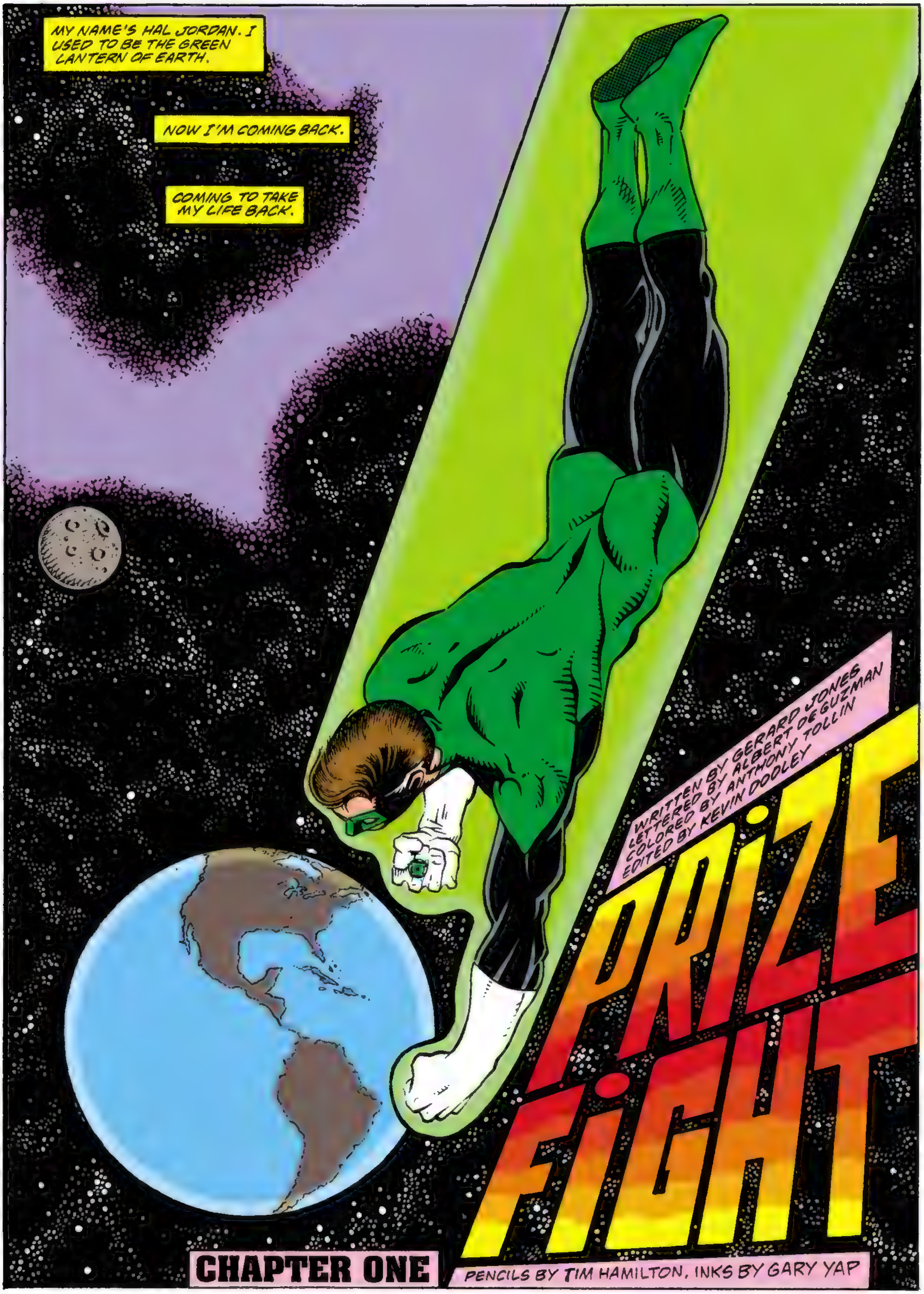

MOVE IT OUT, JUSTICE SOCIETY.
GOOD LUCK, MY FRIEND! GIVE HIM ONE FOR ME!

THEY HAVE GIVEN HIM MUCH, THESE BRIGHT SHINING ONES. THE POWER, YES--BUT ALSO THE EXAMPLE. HOWEVER THEY LOOK OUTSIDE, INSIDE HE AND THEY ARE THE SAME.
THEY HAVE OTHER WORK TO DO. HE KNOWS THIS. HIS HEART BREAKS A LITTLE TO SEE THEM GO.


BUT THIS FIGHT BELONGS TO HIM AND THE OTHERS.
HE CANNOT HUMBLE THE DARK LORD, NOT BY HIMSELF. BUT IF HE WAS TO LINK HIS POWER WITH ANOTHER?
AND IF THEY LINKED ~~THEIR~~ POWER WITH OTHERS?
AND IF THEY STRUCK, ALL AS ONE? WHAT MIGHT THEY DO THEN?
THEY MIGHT MAKE THE DARK LORD AFRAID. THEY MIGHT TAKE BACK FROM THE DARK LORD ALL HE HAD STOLEN FOR HIMSELF. THEY MIGHT MAKE AN END TO FEAR.
FOR THAT, NO PRICE WOULD BE TOO HIGH.


THE RIFT CLOSES, THE BATTLE ENDS, AND IN ITS AFTERMATH, MOST OF THE VICTORS GATHER TO HONOR THOSE WHO TURNED THE TIDE.
AND THE JSA GOT SENT BACK TO LIMBO?!
THE SPELL LINKING RAGNAROK WITH OUR EARTH HAS NOT BEEN BROKEN. IF ARMAGEDDON HERE ON EARTH IS TRULY TO BE STAVED OFF A WHILE LONGER, THAT BATTLE MUST BE FOUGHT OVER AND OVER AGAIN.
THERE ARE WORSE FATES FOR A WARRIOR.
NOTHING BUT A BIG FIGHT FOR ALL ETERNITY? SOUNDS GREAT TO ME!
IT DOESN'T SEEM FAIR, THOUGH. FROM WHAT YOU'VE TOLD US, WITHOUT THE JUSTICE SOCIETY, ABRAXIS WOULD'VE WON!
JAY--ALL OF THEM--DESERVE BETTER!
YOU'RE CORRECT, FLASH.

IT WOULD BE SMALL THANKS TO SUCH HEROES AS THEY TO CONSIGN THE JUSTICE SOCIETY BACK TO LIMBO.
THAT IS WHY THE DAEMEN NOW FIGHT THE ETERNAL BATTLE OF RAGNAROK AND THE JUSTICE SOCIETY IS HERE INSTEAD.
FOR LONG MOMENTS, A JOYOUS CONFUSION REIGNS. OLD FRIENDS GREET ONE ANOTHER, COMRADES IN ARMS SALUTE ONE ANOTHER.
THESE PEOPLE DON'T ASK FOR MUCH; THEY'RE HEROES WHO FACE THE INFERNO BECAUSE SOMEONE MUST. THEY ASK NO REWARD; THEY RARELY GET THANKS.
BUT EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, THEY GET JUSTICE. THE ENEMY IS DEFEATED, THE RIFT BETWEEN THE WORLDS IS FOREVER CLOSED, AND THE JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA HAS RETURNED.
EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE, THE GOOD GUYS ACTUALLY WIN.
End


MY NAME'S HAL JORDAN. I USED TO BE THE GREEN LANTERN OF EARTH.
NOW I'M COMING BACK.
COMING TO TAKE MY LIFE BACK.
WRITTEN BY GERARD JONES
LETTERED BY ALBERT DEGUZMAN
COLORED BY ANTHONY TOLLIN
EDITED BY KEVIN DOOLEY
PRIZE FIGHT
CHAPTER ONE
PENCILS BY TIM HAMILTON, INKS BY GARY YAP

THE GUARDIANS OF THE UNIVERSE MADE ME THEIR COP FOR SPACE-SECTOR 2814. THIS BOILING BLUE BALL OF TROUBLE GAVE ME THREE-FOURTHS OF MY WORK. AND NINE-TENTHS OF MY JOY.

NOW IT NEEDS ME AGAIN.

NEEDS ME BECAUSE THE BRAIN-DAMAGED FOOL WHO REPLACED ME CAN'T HANDLE IT. I HEARD HE TANGLED WITH GOLDFACE RECENTLY... AND HE BOTCHED IT.

WHEN I MET GOLDFACE, I PUT HIM IN A CELL.

THAT'S WHY JUSTICE LEAGUE EUROPE ASKED ME TO LEAD THEM. WHY MOST OF JUSTICE LEAGUE AMERICA WANTS HIM OUT OF THERE.

THAT'S WHY EARTH NEEDS ME.

CAROL NEEDS ME, TOO. HER POSSESSION BY "STAR SAPPHIRE" LEFT HER BATTERED, AND SHE NEEDS A FRIEND TO HELP HER RECOVER. MAYBE MORE THAN A FRIEND.

I WANT TO BE AROUND TO FIND OUT WHICH.

AND THERE ARE OTHERS. ARISIA, IF I CAN FIND HER.

AND PIEFACE. AND MY BROTHERS. MAYBE THEY DON'T ALL NEED ME, BUT I NEED TO SEE THEM.

I NEED TO HAVE A LIFE AGAIN.

I NEED TO BE IN THE COCKPIT AGAIN.

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I DIDN'T VOLUNTEER FOR THE NEW *JLA* SO I COULD CARRY POTATO CHIPS!

MAXWELL LORD

I KNEW WE SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID WE'D DO *ANYTHING* TO GET A NEW *HEADQUARTERS*.

WHERE'S GARDNER?

H-HAL?

I NEED TO TALK TO GARDNER. WHERE IS HE?

AT... AT HIS *APARTMENT*. IS ANYTHING...

...WRONG?

FIRE... I DON'T LIKE THE WAY HE SOUNDED. DO YOU THINK THERE MIGHT BE TROUBLE?

IF IT'S TROUBLE FOR *GUY*, I'M ALL FOR IT. BUT MAYBE... I SHOULD TELL *MAX*, ANYWAY.

"BRAIN-DAMAGED FOOL." MAYBE HE'S MORE THAN THAT. MAYBE NOT. BUT EITHER WAY I HAVE TO CONVINCE HIM.

HAVE TO FIND THE RATIONAL SIDE...

...OF GUY GARDNER.

JORDAN!

GO 'WAY. WHEN I WANNA BE BORED I'LL TURN ON THE PGA TOURNAMENT.

NO, GUY. WE NEED TO TALK.

SO WHY DON'TCHA PULL YER USUAL *RING TRICKS*? APPEAR T'ME IN A *VERDANT APPARITION*, WHY DON'TCHA? I THOUGHT IT'D BE *BENEATH* YOU TO WALK THROUGH *MY* NEIGHBORHOOD.

I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO YOU AS A GREEN LANTERN. I WANT TO TALK TO YOU AS A *MAN*.

I'M COMING TO TAKE MY SECTOR BACK.

BEEEEEEEER

BEER

GEDDOUDA HERE!

YOU KNOW THE GUARDIANS GAVE THIS GIG TO ME!

MS. MAY

ONLY WHILE I WAS RECRUITING THE NEW CORPS. I'M DONE WITH THAT. NOW THEY SAY EITHER OF US CAN HAVE THE SECTOR.

BUT WE NEED TO WORK IT OUT BETWEEN US. I NEED TO MAKE YOU SEE REASON. AND I'M GOING TO.

YOU KNOW THIS SECTOR IS MINE BY RIGHT.

YOU'RE GOOD, JORDAN. I'LL GIVE YOU THAT. YOU'RE ONE SMART, SLICK GREEN LANTERN.

BUT THIS TURF IS MINE! WHY SHOULD I GIVE IT UP?

BECAUSE I WAS FIRST. I WAS PICKED BY ABIN SUR AS HE DIED. PICKED BY HIS POWER RING, BECAUSE IT SAW IN ME THE POTENTIAL FOR FEARLESSNESS, AND ABSOLUTE DEVOTION TO--

IT PICKED YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE CLOSER!

IT SAW THE SAME STUFF IN ME, JORDAN! BUT I GOT PICKED AS A BACK-UP BECAUSE I WAS FARTHER AWAY! THAT'S IT!

I DID THE JOB. FOR YEARS. I FOUGHT THEM ALL, GARDNER! THE QWARDIANS, SINESTRO, GOLDFACE, HECTOR HAMMOND...

AND THEN YOU QUIT. TO "FIND YOURSELF," AND I GOT THE NOD.

ROCKY

RAMBO FIRST BLOOD

GREEN BERETS

I FELL APART. FOR A LITTLE WHILE. I'VE PUT IT ALL BACK TOGETHER.

I'M BACK.

MEANWHILE I BEEN "DOING THE JOB"! DOING IT FOR THE CORPS, DOING IT FOR THE JLA--

101 WAYS TO GET EVEN

BILL FLINT

GUN FUN GUIDE

Women of Danger

AND DOING IT WRONG. EVER SINCE YOU GOT HIT ON THE HEAD AND WENT INTO THAT COMA, YOU'VE BEEN UNCONTROLLABLE, CRAZY--

UH-UH. I BEEN ME.

AND FOR ALL YOUR SLICKNESS, JORDAN, I GOT ONE THING YOU'LL NEVER HAVE... GUTS.

JUST WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT, GUY?

I CAN FIGHT. I WILL FIGHT. ANYBODY.

YOU ALWAYS WANT TO TALK YOUR WAY THROUGH EVERY--

PLAYMAN

BEING A GREEN LANTERN IS MORE THAN VIOLENCE, GARDNER! I KNOW THIS JOB! I KNOW THIS SECTOR!

NOW--WE'RE GOING TO TALK THIS OUT! ME-- AND YOU!

EARTH NEEDS MY--

SAY, SINCE YOU KNOW SO MUCH, MAYBE YOU CAN ANSWER SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME FOR MONTHS.

I THOUGHT THE *TATTOOED MAN* DIED A LONG TIME AGO, BUT THERE HE WAS FIGHTIN' US A LITTLE WHILE BACK. HOW'D HE SURVIVE?

HELL, I DON'T KNOW. MADE A TATTOO IMAGE OF HIMSELF WHEN GOLDFACE TRIED TO KILL HIM, MAYBE.

NOW LISTEN TO ME--

ELVIS

SAY, WHATEVER HAPPENED TO MALVOLIO? DO YOU STILL HAVE HIS RING?

AND WHAT HAPPENED TO MOGO? YOU KNOW, THE *PLANET GL*?

AND WHY DID THE GUARDIANS KEEP SAYING THERE WERE ONLY *THREE* GLS LEFT WHEN CH'P STILL HAD HIS RING?

I GUESS BECAUSE HE'D LET IT RUN OUT OF *POWER*, SO THEY WEREN'T *DETECTING* IT.

IF YOU CAME UP AGAINST A WALL OF YELLOW ICE, COULD YOU MELT IT WITH GREEN FIRE? AND IF THE GUARDIANS COULDN'T FIX THE POWER BATTERY BEFORE, HOW COME NOW ALL OF A SUDDEN--

ARRGH!

NOW, WILL YOU--

DAMN IT, GARDNER! YOU'RE TURNING THIS INTO BUFFOONERY!

THIS IS IMPORTANT-- AND YOU'LL TREAT IT THAT WAY!

WELL, NOW THERE'S SOME GUTS.

BUT CAN YOU BACK IT UP?

BACK IT UP... HOW?

FIGHT ME FOR THE RING, HAL. LIKE A MAN. ONE FULL-SCALE FIGHT. WINNER GETS THE SECTOR.

LOSER QUITS THE CORPS.

YOU'RE NUTS. THE FUTURE OF A SPACE-SECTOR-- DECIDED BY A FIGHT?

WELL, IF YOU CAN'T REASON, WE'LL LET OTHERS DECIDE. I'VE CALLED THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS. THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY.

OH. GANGIN' UP ON ME, EH? CAN'T HANDLE THIS YOURSELF, CAN YOU, HAL?

THAT'S YOUR TROUBLE. YOU SAY YOU WANT THE EARTH-- BUT YOU DON'T HAVE THE WILL TO FIGHT FOR IT.

DON'T I?

OF COURSE I DO. I'VE ALWAYS HAD THE WILL, THE WILL TO USE THE RING. AGAINST GOLDFACE. AGAINST THE QWARDIANS. AGAINST SINESTRO.

YOU'RE OLD, HAL. AIN'T YOU NOTICED? SURE, IN YEARS YOU'RE JUST A LITTLE OLDER... BUT I BEEN USING MY POWER-RING ON MY BODY.

YOU DON'T HAVE MY STAMINA. YOU DON'T HAVE MY PUNCH.

AND I DON'T MAKE YOUR MISTAKES.

THIS IS THE HERO GAME, HAL. THAT MEANS A FIGHTER GAME. YOU GOTTA WANT IT ENOUGH TO FIGHT.

BUT YOU--YOU CAN'T COMMIT! YOU DON'T HAVE THE GUTS!

GUTS.

IT'S ONE WAY TO KNOW. THE STRONGEST WILL WOULD BE THE WINNER. THE POWER-RINGS DO RUN ON WILL...

...AND WOULDN'T THE STRONGEST WILL MAKE THE BEST GREEN LANTERN?

NO. IT'S TOO BIG TO DECIDE THAT WAY.

YOU NEVER HAD NO GUTS. THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT.

WHAT HAPPENED BACK WHEN YOU GOT YOUR FIRST DOSE O' "POLITICAL AWARENESS"? HUH?

YOU CRACKED UP. WENT RUNNIN' AROUND "LOOKIN' FOR AMERICA." HA!

AND WHAT HAPPENED WHEN 'YOU STARTED FEELIN' DOWN? YOU QUIT!

CAN I FIGHT FOR THIS? CAN I STAKE IT ALL ON MY WILL?

AND IF I CAN'T... WHAT GOOD AM I?

WHAT HAPPENED WHEN CAROL DUMPED YOU? YOU TOOK OFF RUNNIN'!

STUFF IT, GUY.

WHAT ABOUT WHEN ARISIA DUMPED YOU? AND WHEN THE GREMLINS GAVE YOU THE BOOT? DID YOU STAND UP? DID YOU FIGHT?

YEAH, YOU TALK ABOUT BEIN' "BACK." BUT HERE YOU COME TO ME, TRYIN' TO BARGAIN. BEGGIN' ME.

FACE IT, JORDAN. YOU'RE JUST AN OLD CHICKEN. YOU JUST DON'T GOT IT.

ONCE A WHINER... ALWAYS A WHINER.

CHAPTER TWO

ART BY: JOE STATON & ROMEO TANGHAL

WHAM

BIG HUNK

HOT BABES

NOW, THAT'S MORE LIKE IT, JORDAN. MAKES ME FEEL ALL GOOD INSIDE TO KNOW I CAN STILL...

AUTO

...GET YER GOAT! HA!

TOOMP

UUUFF

IDIOT.

HE CREATES THE FIGHT. HE SETS THE STAKES. BIG STAKES.

BUT HE WASTES HIS POWER ON THESE TWO-BIT GAGS.

KRUUUUM

BIG MOTORS

I'LL DO HIM A FAVOR BY ENDING IT FAST.

THAT THE BEST YOU CAN DO, JORDAN? YOU FORGET THAT I BATTED .280 MY FRESHMAN YEAR IN COLLEGE?

YEAH?

HOW'D YOU HANDLE THE CURVE?

BONK

DAMN... TRICKED ME...

YOU TRICKED YOURSELF, GUY.

TRICKED YOURSELF OUT OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS!

PLOOM

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S THIS EASY. AFTER ALL THE THINKING, ALL THE STEELING OF MY NERVES... THAT IT SHOULD COME TO THIS.

BUT HE MADE THE CHALLENGE. AND IF HE DOESN'T LIVE UP TO IT...

DAMN.

KRAKOOM

KRUMP

BLOOO-EEEEEE

SHOULDN'TA DONE THAT, JORDAN.

SHOULDN'TA HUMILIATED ME.

STUPID TRICKS.

SHOULDN'TA MADE ME MAD!

JUST MORE... STUPID TRICKS.

I CAN MATCH HIS STUPID TRICKS.

KLONNG

NNNNNNNNNN

AND I CAN DO HIM BETTER.

WITHOUT TRICKS.

SMASH

...YOU'RE MAKIN' ME MAD.

YOU'RE... HELPIN' ME, JORDAN...

RRRRKKK

WELL, ICE... YOU WERE RIGHT ABOUT *TROUBLE!*

NOW I'D BETTER PUT A STOP TO IT BEFORE THEY DESTROY THE WHOLE--

SUPPORT... GUY?

WHAT IS THIS?

I'M *SORRY*, JUSTICE LEAGUER! WE WON'T *ALLOW* YOU TO SUPPORT YOUR COMRADE GUY AGAINST *HAL!*

SORRY, SUPERMAN. *BRIK* ISN'T QUITE UP TO SPEED ON SUPER-HERO POLITICS.

HAL AND GUY ARE DISPUTING WHO GETS TO BE OUR LOCAL *GREEN LANTERN*. EVIDENTLY THE DISPUTE CAME DOWN TO *BASICS*. WE JUST WANT TO SEE THAT NO ONE INTERFERES.

THEIR "DISPUTE" COULD DESTROY *NEW YORK*. THIS IS A VERY UNCHARACTERISTIC OUTBURST FOR *HAL*, AND IF--

I KNOW. LET *ME* DEAL WITH IT.

I ASSUME YOU'LL DEAL WITH IT IN THE *AHEM* *RIGHT* WAY?

HELPING *HAL* WIN, I MEAN.

NO.

I KNOW THESE GUYS. I KNOW THEIR PRIDE.

THIS IS *THEIR* SHOW. WHATEVER THEY DECIDE-- WE LIVE WITH IT.

BEEN PLAYING WITH YOU, JORDAN. BUT YOU DON'T PLAY NICE.

TIME TO GET *SERIOUS.*

FOOOSH

THE ANGER.

SHOOOM!

BLAM

I'VE SEEN IT. NEVER FELT IT. THE ANGER IN GUY. LIKE A FURNACE.

A FURNACE EXPLODING.

CHOOM

BAKAKAKAKA

KAKOOM

SHIELD THIS JORDAN!

AND I HAVE TO PUT OUT THE FIRE. QUICKLY. OR--

STOP!

YOU FORGET THERE'S A CITY AROUND YOU?

AH, WHO CARES?! LET 'EM COVER THEIR OWN--

HE'S RIGHT, GARDNER. WE CAN'T DO THIS HERE.

YOU JUST WANT OUT OF THE FIGHT, THAT'S ALL!

YOU'LL GET YOUR FIGHT, GARDNER. BUT IN SPACE-- NOT HERE!

YOU JUST WANT TO GET ME ON YOUR TURF! YOU'RE SCARED, JORDAN--SCARED O' THE ADVANTAGE I GOT ON EARTH!

I'LL TAKE YOU ANYWHERE, GARDNER! ANY TIME! BUT I WON'T DESTROY A CITY!

YOU'RE SCARED, THAT'S ALL! SCARED!

WELL, I KNOW A WAY WE CAN FIGHT WITHOUT WRECKIN' A CITY.

MANO A MANO. NO POWER RINGS.

IF THAT'S HOW YOU WANT IT.

THIS IS CRAZY! THIS IS HAL JORDAN-- SETTLING SOMETHING THIS BIG-- WITH A FIST-FIGHT?

IT'S THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS, BEETLE. IT HAS ITS OWN WAYS.

GUY, IT ISN'T TOO LATE. YOU CAN STILL STOP THIS.

STOP IT?! BABY, I GOT THIS ACED. YOU JUST LAY DOWN AN ICE-WALL TO KEEP THE RUBES OUTTA MY WAY.

JORDAN'S RIGHT WHERE I WANT HIM. HE'S ALL FANCY TRICKS AND NO GUTS.

NO WAY HE CAN TAKE ME IN A REAL FIGHT.

HAL... PLEASE, HAL... WE CAN'T ALLOW GUY TO WIN.' FOR THE CORPS... FOR ME... PLEASE, HAL, JUST LET US--

NO, BRIK.

NO INTERFERENCE. NO HELP. PERIOD.

IF GUY AND I DON'T SETTLE THIS NOW, WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO. WE CAN'T COEXIST. WE HAVE TO KNOW. ONCE AND FOR ALL. WE HAVE TO KNOW--

--WHO TALKS TOO MUCH! THAT'S WHAT WE GOTTA KNOW!

CHAPTER THREE

ART BY: M.D. BRIGHT & ROMEO TANGHAL

WHOK

TOW AWAY ZONE TUES.-FRI

THAT WAS STUPID.

NO STOPPING OR STANDING MO...FRI

BWANG

HE'S KEPT HIMSELF YOUNGER THAN ME. QUICKER THAN ME. STRONGER THAN ME.

HOW'S THAT, HAL? YOU STILL WANT TO DO THIS? HOW 'BOUT I MAKE NICE-- AND LET YOU BACK OUT?

MY BRAIN IS MY STRENGTH.

AHHH. THAT'S A GOOD BOY!

FEINT.

HA!

THEN HOOK THE LEG AND FLAT-HAND HIM.

THUMP

TOOM

UGH!

HAL! PIN HIM DOWN! DON'T LET HIM GET--

UH-UH, FLASHY. YOU KNOW THE RULES.

BESIDES, I DON'T THINK OUR PAL GUY IS GOING TO LAST MORE THAN ANOTHER MINUTE OR TWO ANYWAY.

PARRY. AND PIVOT.

GYARRHH!

KLONNNG

SORRY, GUY.

BUT IT'S GOT TO BE.

HA! ONE PUNCH!

ONE PUNCH AGAIN!

ENOUGH, GUY?

ONE... PUNCH...

NO... ONE... PUNCH...

NO ONE PUNCH!!

KA-BOOM

NEVER AGAIN...

KRAK

FWUHH

"...ONE PUNCH!

SMACK

KRUMP

ENOUGH, HAL?!

HHMPF

THNK

WHAT'S WRONG, HAL?! WHY AIN'T YOU TALKIN'?!

HAVE TO ROLL OUT OF THIS. PAIN'S FOGGING ME. NEED A SECOND...

WHISHH

...JUST A SECOND...

...TO SET HIM UP...

YES!

CHUFF

YAARRGHH!

WHUG

YOU HURT ME, JORDAN! BROKE MY FRIGGIN' HAND!

GOTTA USE MY ELBOW NOW!

TOO BAD FOR ME, HUH?!

TOO FAST.

AND I'M TOO FOGGY. JUST HAVE TO SURVIVE, NOW.

HWOOOOF!

SURVIVE LONG ENOUGH TO FIND MY WITS. TO GET THROUGH THE PAIN. TO--

GLUUHH

YOU'RE NOTHIN', JORDAN. YOU SEE WHAT I BEEN TELLIN' YA?

YOU'RE JUST OLD. GUTLESS. WORTHLESS.

LET HIM RANT.

I GOT YER ONE PUNCH COMIN' UP!

LET HIM WASTE TIME. LET ME BUY MYSELF...

...ANOTHER FEW SECONDS.

WA-HOO!

GUY?!

OH. THANK GOD...

OH, DARN.

...GUY'S UP!

NOW'S THE TIME, JORDAN.

DAMN IT.

DAMN HIS REFLEXES.

OH.

SO--YOU DO GOT SOMETHIN' THERE!

SMUK

DAMN HIS ANGER. NOTHING SEEMS TO--

NEVER WOULDA GUESSED IT.

BLOCK IT. BLOCK IT. BLOCK THE PAIN.

THUFF

PAK

NO. NOT ENOUGH. JUST NOT STRONG ENOUGH...

...ANYMORE.

SHAKK

HWOP!

HE'S GOT IT...

KRAAM

...GOT IT ALL.

CHAK

SPLAT

ALL THE FIRE.

THP

...IS HOPE HE BURNS HIMSELF OUT.

THP

AND ALL I CAN DO..

YOU'RE NOTHIN', JORDAN!

ALWAYS BEEN NOTHIN'!

YOU SEE THAT NOW?!

ALL I CAN DO IS COVER.

...WHILE HE BURNS.

NOTHIN'! NOTHIN'!

PULL A ROPE-A-DOPE, LIKE ALI AGAINST FRAZIER. KEEP TAKING IT...

GOT TO GO DEEP.

RAK

DEEP IN MY CORE.

POOM

JUST END IT, GUY. PLEASE... END IT.

DEEP, WHERE THERE IS NO PAIN.

WHUMP

FMP

WHERE THERE IS NO PAIN.

THUFF

GO DEEP.

PMP

AND HOPE...

... I CAN FIND MY WAY...

... BACK.

I CAN'T... BELIEVE IT.

GYUHHH *GYUHHH* AIN'T YOU... FINISHED YET...

HOW TH' HELL...*GYUHHH* *GYUHHH*... HOW TH' HELL MUCH... DO I GOTTA GIVE YA?

HUH?

WHY DOESN'T HAL JUST DROP? WHY DOESN'T HE...

HUH, JORDAN? HOW... HOW... *WHUFF*...

HOW... MUCH MORE?

OH.

IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME WITH THE BIG SLUGGERS. ALL POWER. NO PLACEMENT. WASTE THEIR STRENGTH POUNDING YOUR COVER.

GO... DOWN... DAMN YA.

GO... GO... DOWN!

UNTIL THEY'VE GOT NOTHING LEFT.

WHAM

ARMS ARE DEAD. HE'S WIDE OPEN.

PAK

NOT MUCH LEFT IN MY OWN ARMS...

...SO MAKE THEM QUICK. MAKE THEM COUNT.

CHOK

JUST DON'T...

MWUHH

...LOSE IT NOW.

SPLAP

DAMN... YOU...

NOTHING.

HE'S GOT NOTHING ANYMORE. JUST ENOUGH STUPID ANGER TO STAY ON HIS FEET.

HE'S MINE, NOW. MINE TO SPARE. MINE TO DESTROY.

COMPASSION WOULD BE EASY FOR ME NOW. ONLY A HARD MAN COULD BEAT THIS BATTERED, HALF-DEAD FOOL.

WHOK

WHOK

IT'S A HARD WORLD.

AND IT'S MY WORLD.

GUY! OH, GUY!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, DARLING? OH, MY POOR GUY, MY POOR GUY? DON'T BE DEAD! OH, PLEASE, DON'T BE--

HEY. COULDJA KEEP IT DOWN OUT THERE? I GOT A HEADACHE.

GUY?

COME ON, GUY.

AWRIGHT, AWRIGHT. YOU WON. I ADMIT. I'LL SHAKE YER DAMN--

NO, GUY.

THE RING.

WAY TO GO, HAL! WAY TO GO!

I'LL MISS OL' GUY, BUT... CONGRATULATIONS!

GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK, HAL.

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! NO MORE GUY IN THE CORPS!

FORGET THE CORPS! NO MORE GUY IN THE JLA! I DO BELIEVE I'VE DIED AND GONE TO HEAVEN!

EVEN IF HE AIN'T A GREEN LANTERN.

HAL? ARE YOU HEARING A WORD WE SAY, HAL?

BETTER NOT WASTE TOO MUCH TIME CELEBRATIN', BEETLE. GUY GARDNER'LL BE BACK. GUY GARDNER'LL ALWAYS FIND A WAY TO COME BACK.

MY NAME'S HAL JORDAN. AND THAT MEANS SOMETHING NOW. AT LEAST TO ME.

I'VE BEEN IN THE FURNACE. I'VE COME OUT, NEWLY FORGED.

NOW IT'S JUST MY NAME.

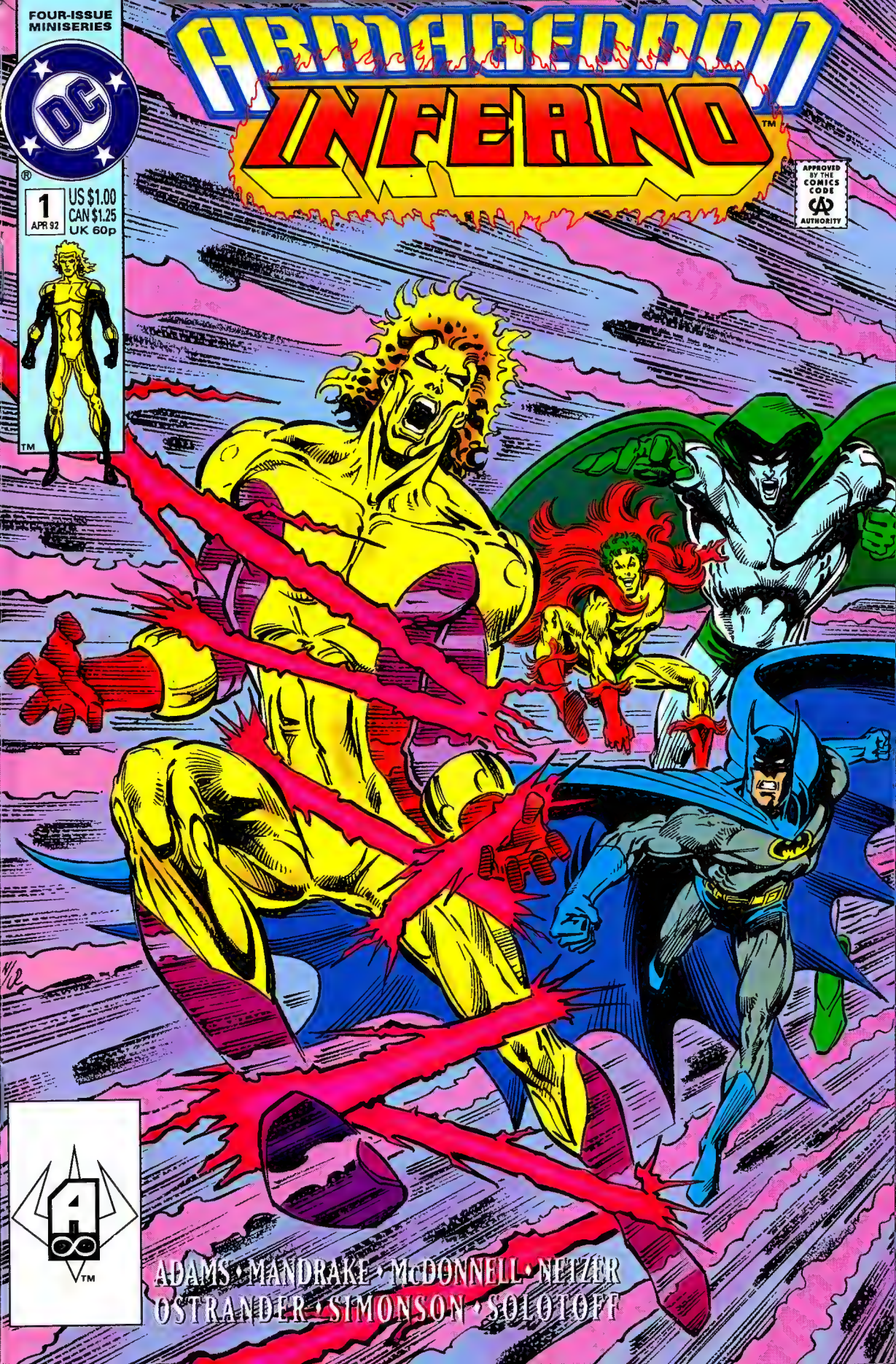
IT'S BEEN A LOSER'S NAME. A DRIFTER'S NAME. A WHINER'S NAME.

MY NAME'S HAL JORDAN. I'M THE GREEN LANTERN OF EARTH.

I'VE GOT MY LIFE BACK.

AND NOW IT'S TIME TO HAVE SOME FUN.

HAL'S STORY STARTS AGAIN NEXT MONTH IN GREEN LANTERN #26 WITH THE RETURN OF AN OLD (AND EXTREMELY POWERFUL) VILLAIN -- EVIL STAR! GUY'S LIFE TAKES A NEW TWIST... IN GUY GARDNER #1 ON SALE SOON!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ARMAGEDDON: INFERNO
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ARMAGEDDON: INFERNO
3
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